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Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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CONFERENCE A

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

- I. Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices
- II. Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans
- III. Corruption and Environmental Governance

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNEP/1/1	Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices	Adopted without a vote
UNEP/1/2	Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices	114 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 17 abstentions
UNEP/1/3	Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices	76 votes in favor, 38 votes against, 19 abstentions
UNEP/1/4	Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices	112 votes in favor, 10 votes against, 11 abstentions
UNEP/1/5	Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices	90 votes in favor, 21 votes against, 22 abstentions
UNEP/1/6	Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices	108 votes in favor, 6 votes against, 19 abstentions
UNEP/1/7	Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices	124 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 7 abstentions
UNEP/1/8	Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

The United Nations Environment Programme held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Corruption and Environmental Governance
- II. Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices
- III. Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

The session was attended by representatives of 140 Member States and 3 Observers, including 1 non-governmental organization.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda as II, III, I, beginning debate on the topic of “Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices.” Through Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 20 proposals covering a wide range of subtopics such as: the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources; the increase of public awareness through environmental education; and the improvement of financial frameworks and policies as a means to counter widespread forest degradation and its adverse effects. Small groups enhanced the consensus-building atmosphere in the committee by addressing multiple aspects of solutions with specific, in-depth proposals by Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, the original 20 proposals were merged and nine draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, five of which were amended. The committee adopted eight resolutions; two received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions covered a wide range of issues, including the implementation of international nature conservation certifications; the extension of the United Nations Forum on Forests’ mandate to strengthen knowledge sharing and financial incentives; and the improvement of governmental transparency, funding allocation, and public-private partnerships. In lieu of national interests, Member States collaboratively tackled the issue of sustainable management of forests. Delegates utilized their sense of responsibility as global citizens to transcend geographical borders to work towards comprehensive sustainable management of the forests.



Code: UNEP/1/1

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*
2
3 *Reaffirming* the values of conservation and unity with the Earth enshrined within *Agenda 21,*
4
5 *Recalling* international commitment to the *Kyoto Protocol*, the 2015 *United Nations (UN) Framework Convention*
6 *on Climate Change Paris Agreement*, specifically Articles 5 and 55, as well as the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable*
7 *Development* and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4, 12, 15, and 17, which focus on sustainable forest
8 management, fighting desertification and halting biodiversity loss,
9
10 *Recalling* the *Rio Declaration* Principles 5, 6, 7, 8, and 12 that emphasize cooperation in eradicating poverty as
11 indispensable requirements for sustainable development, the need for all states to cooperate in a spirit of global
12 partnership to conserve, protect and restore the value of our ecosystems through technology transfer, and
13 strengthening endogenous capacity-building in order to promote Sustainable Forest Management Practices,
14
15 *Recognizing* the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, especially in regard of climate change and
16 subsequent desertification,
17
18 *Emphasizing* the need to ensure free access to information and strengthen environmental governance, in particular
19 through SDG 16, which aims to reduce corruption and bribery in all its form,
20
21 *Re-emphasizing* commitment to the three pillars of sustainable development, which include economic, social, and
22 environmental factors,
23
24 *Recalling* the anti-corruption measures for the public and private sectors declared by the *UN Convention against*
25 *Corruption (CAC)* which entered into force 14 December 2005 and is widely ratified,
26
27 *Reaffirming* the importance of the codes of ethics such as those established by the World Tourism Organization
28 (WTO) as essential social responsibility measures in both the private and public sector,
29
30 *Fully aware* of the threats posed by corruption and lack of transparency to sustainable forestry management, which
31 include illegal logging and deforestation among others,
32
33 *Bearing* in mind the role of international organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs) and the cooperation of
34 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to monitor governmental institutions that establish environmental
35 programs, specifically Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices,
36
37 *Acknowledging* the diversity of citizens and their cultural or religious connections to landscape sites of indigenous
38 populations,
39
40 *Reaffirming* the importance of mobilizing significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance
41 sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such
42 management, including for conservation and reforestation,
43
44 *Deeply concerned* by the alarmingly high rate of deforestation worldwide, especially through illegal deforestation,
45 non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, their work in protecting the Earth's indigenous forests,
46 animals, plants, and those that depend on them,
47
48 *Believing* education on forest preservation is a key instrument of prevention of deforestation and conservation, and
49 further understanding that education and knowledge lay at the heart of sustainability, innovation, and development,
50

51 *Noting* the need for financial support in obtaining sustainable forest management by providing adequate incentives
52 to developing countries to support measures such as conservation and reforestation,
53

54 *Taking into consideration* the need for agricultural productivity and production for the livelihoods and economic
55 prosperity of all Member States and citizens who are dependent upon agriculture,
56

57 *Affirming* the work of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) specifically on Tools and Resources for Anti-
58 Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) for developing a framework for environmental governance and combating
59 corruption and of Stolen Asset Recovery Programme (StAR) which supports international efforts to end safe havens
60 for corrupt funds,
61

62 *Reaffirming* the work done by the Country Programming Framework (CPF) and their strategies based on Results
63 Based Approach (RBA) and Results Based Management (RBM), especially in the framework of the *Paris*
64 *Agreement*, and a follow up to the *Accra Agenda for Action*,
65

66 *Appreciating* the work of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social
67 Council (ECOSOC) in providing crucial resources and information which contributed greatly towards a harmonized
68 and common approach to the monitoring of forests,
69

70 *Noting further* that the unique issues of deforestation and desertification continue the detrimental cycle that is
71 exacerbated by global warming through a decrease in overall rainfall in deforested areas causing droughts and
72 leading to the expansion of desert areas, posing major challenges to sustainable development and affecting the lives
73 and livelihoods of millions of people in the fight against poverty and world hunger, as well as endangering by its
74 corollary effects of desertification, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, key natural resources and aesthetic landscapes,
75

76 *Emphasizing* the risk corruption poses to organizations like the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest
77 Degradation (REDD+), where in powerful individuals and groups, such as politicians, logging companies,
78 agribusiness and the military seek to influence the design of a country's national REDD+ framework in order to
79 advance their private interests or to entrench their political power,
80

81 *Recognizing* the important role of Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) in promoting transfer of technology, for
82 the purpose of building sustainable economies in developing countries,
83

84 1. *Suggests* the creation of a Subcommittee for Sustainable Forestry (SSF) under the UNFF and within the budget
85 of the Forum, following the example set by the *UN Convention to Combat Desertification* (UNCCD), for the
86 transfer of information, technology, and management practices between Member States:
87

88 a. Members of the SFF will be any existing UN Member States and UNFF members, as well as all public
89 or private organizations that obtain approval from the UNFF;
90

91 b. The subcommittee will be responsible for maintaining a database where Member States, UN
92 organizations, and NGOs can share information and best practices examples of sustainable forest
93 management, that is accessible by both public and private stakeholders;
94

95 c. The subcommittee will work in collaboration with Member States in combating desertification,
96 deforestation and practices of agricultural plantations on forest territories by working together in
97 creating more sustainable ways of managing their forests through conferences, political lobbying and
98 campaigns in the media aimed at conservation and preservation of forests;
99

100 d. The subcommittee will meet biannually to review its work, measure its achievements, and discuss
101 necessary changes to encompass new challenges;
102

103 e. The subcommittee will encourage all Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the *2030*
104 *Agenda* and SDG 15 by:
105

- 106 i. Establishing Regional Benchmarks under regional conventions that set targets for forest
107 conservation and halting deforestation by 2020;
- 108 ii. Asserting that these Global Benchmarks should foster a global, integrated effort with
109 associated goals, tracking, and measurements;
- 110 iii. Setting up monitoring frameworks to supervise the progress of these regional efforts
111 in implementing forest-related sustainable development goals and targets to be overseen by
112 the UNFF;
- 113 iv. Emphasizing that these Global Benchmarks are voluntary;
- 114
- 115 f. Recommending that the SSF include in its mandate an expansion of the forest certification programs
116 conducted by NGOs such as the Forest Stewardship Council which:
- 117
- 118 i. Includes a set of standards for vast forest-based regions to assess the performance in
119 conservancy;
- 120 ii. Annually reviews and reports on participating Member States and non-state actors including
121 private companies;
- 122 iii. Invites experts such as biologists, zoologists and climatologists, private businesses,
123 transnational NGOs, and CSOs;
- 124
- 125 2. *Endorses* under the mandate of the UNFF, tied to the yet to be created forum of the UN Program for Sustainable
126 Forestry, in an effort to guide the actions of the global community:
- 127
- 128 a. Collaboration with NGOs that, especially in highly forested countries, organize activities and create
129 learning material for all levels of education concentrating on the role of sustainable forest management
130 practices in mitigating the detrimental effects of climate change and the appreciation of the multiple
131 functions forests play beyond timber production;
- 132
- 133 b. The use of education as a catalyst to update all relevant international, national and local processes and
134 actors in adequately addressing sustainable forest management practices;
- 135
- 136 3. *Calls upon* ECOSOC to expand on the mandate within the UNFF to include:
- 137
- 138 a. Using UNFF evaluation strategies in the creation of regional reports in an effort to tackle and eliminate
139 corruption within the private and public sectors;
- 140
- 141 b. Support for setting up monitoring frameworks in selected pilot countries to enable the measurement of
142 progress towards implementation of the forest management policies and forest-related sustainable
143 development goals and targets;
- 144
- 145 c. Countries within the region to share the success of their incentive programs;
- 146
- 147 d. Providing advisory services, which will be reviewed by a panel of experts selected by ECOSOC, to
148 assist in the development and utilization of the monitoring framework for the programs implemented in
149 the pilot countries;
- 150
- 151 e. Strengthening monitoring, assessment and reporting on implementation and engagement by
152 streamlining standardized reporting and data sharing;
- 153
- 154 f. Incentives to encourage potential investors and long-term political commitment by Member States in
155 sustainable forest management practices and programs by:
- 156
- 157 i. Developing measurable targets and objectives across all levels of government and within the
158 private sector;
- 159 ii. Harmonizing and clarifying legislations regarding investment procedures;
- 160

- 161 4. *Recommends* for Member States the implementation of concession permits on an individual and voluntary basis
162 in order to mitigate deforestation conducted by private companies through allowances and conditions by
163 implementing a quota system for the use of forests;
164
- 165 5. *Invites* all UN Member States that are not yet members of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)
166 to join the IACA for the purpose of establishing trainings with a special attention to SFM in order to:
167
- 168 a. Counter corruption in the forestry industry;
 - 169 b. Provide trainings for international programs involved with the forestry industry;
 - 170 c. Involve the private sector with SFM through anti-corruption measures established by the IACA
171 trainings;
 - 172 d. Provide proper management and structure within the aforementioned programs as well as within
173 parties of the private sector;
 - 174 e. Pioneer the efforts of the SDG 12, “responsible consumption and production,” SDG 13, “climate
175 action,” and SDG 15, “life on land,” in the context of SFM;
176
- 177
- 178 6. *Recommends* that Member States cooperate with the UNODC, under the mandate of the CAC, which focuses on
179 four main pillars: prevention, criminalization of corruption, international cooperation and asset recovery in the
180 implementation of the both private and intergovernmental organizations such as TRACK and StAR;
181
- 182 7. *Affirms* the need for governmental bodies and NGOs to diminish hindrances caused by both regional and
183 international conflict on a nation’s ability to best address SFM and the SDGs;
184
- 185 8. *Calls upon* Member States to voluntarily respond to illegal deforestation by:
186
- 187 a. Promoting oversight through the regional police force;
 - 188 b. Adopting ethical and common codes and principles to conduct the management of the regions;
 - 189 c. Enforcement of protocols to be followed in cases including but not being limited to bribery,
190 embezzlement, concealment, abuse of functions, obstruction of justice;
 - 191 d. Supporting the work of the Global Forest Watch (GFW) in using preexisting satellite imagery to map
192 all forest areas (types, structures, volume) for further detection of unusual deforestation patterns, as a
193 way to monitor clandestine activity in forest logging, which would be later reported at a national or
194 regional level;
195
- 196
- 197 9. *Strongly encourages* the strengthening the functions of TRACK and StAR:
198
- 199 a. Through the publication by Member States of national guides containing tools and procedures on asset
200 recovery;
 - 201 b. The expansion of their educational efforts on the effect that transparency has on sustainable
202 development;
 - 203 c. The voluntary donation of monetary assets to fund educational programs that focus on rebuilding, and;
204
 - 205 d. The strengthening of NGO and government partnerships to provide education at all levels regarding
206 the full value of forests and the goods and services they provide, which are crucial to the economic,
207 environmental and social success of Member States;
208
- 209
- 210
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- 215

- 216 10. *Suggests* all Member States support the works of the UN Development Programme’s (UNDP) environmental
217 financing measures through the specific support of locally focused environmental funding in order to:
218
- 219 a. Promote the incorporation of conservation in bilateral and multilateral negotiations through the
220 inclusion of financial incentives for local communities;
221
 - 222 b. Establish direct financial connections between environmental and sustainable development-focused
223 NGOs to further incentivize conservation and sustainable forest usage in rural communities;
224
- 225 11. *Strongly recommends* the involvement of local communities in identifying problems and designing appropriate
226 solutions, building on their local knowledge, practices and strategic partnerships through:
227
- 228 a. Hosting regional and local conferences such as the Caribbean Environment Programme to voice the
229 concerns of marginalized groups such as indigenous people, women, and youth as well as to encourage
230 respect of the environment;
231
 - 232 b. Transfer exchange programs wherein individuals interested in forest management will have the
233 opportunity to study abroad in willing Member States to gain a global understanding of the issue of
234 deforestation as well as learn best-practices that they can then implement in their own local
235 communities;
236
 - 237 c. The introduction of educational programs in schools and universities in order to sensitize the youth to
238 respect the environment and to promote the knowledge of national biodiversity and the negative effects
239 of climate change;
240
 - 241 d. The promotion of social media campaigns to help people become aware of the anthropological causes
242 of environmental degradation in order for actions to be taken and encouraging transparency and
243 awareness by utilizing social networking applications, web platforms such as websites and podcasts,
244 television, newspapers articles, and billboard campaigns;
245
- 246 12. *Encourages* the above-mentioned collaborations to focus on:
247
- 248 a. Raising awareness on the benefits of more sustainable agricultural techniques such as silvopasture
249 grazing systems with the support of regional organizations and UNEP, which will:
250
 - 251 i. Guide farmers in the implementation of this methodology;
 - 252 ii. Incorporate its “Big Picture” program to create awareness;
 - 253 iii. Utilize social media, regarding the specificity of the nation, to increase its penetration rate;
 - 254 iv. The implementation of direct seeding strategies by Member States in order to reforest non-
255 fertile and degraded soil by mixing seeds into the feed of livestock;
 - 256 v. Exploit deserted land through saline agricultural methods and non-forested land with the
257 development of grassland and orchard plantations;
 - 258 vi. Encourage Member States to reforest areas with a mixture of native species which grant
259 sustainable future forest management to ensure the recreation of domestic flora, biodiversity
260 and avoid the cultivation of forests according to economic reasons;
 - 261 vii. Foster participation of Member States in reforestation efforts while keeping in mind common
262 but differentiated responsibilities through making use of CDM with the overall hope to create
263 zero net deforestation by 2020;
264
 - 265 b. Providing educational environmental programs that include proper use of their natural resources in the
266 following areas including hunting, fishing, agriculture, and wild forest products;
267
 - 268 c. Creating a recycling program under its guidance promote the creation of entrepreneurial workshops to
269 increase the recycling industry by:
270
 - 271 i. Creating social campaigns in coordination with NGOs;

- 272 ii. Promoting the exchange of knowledge in recyclable programs between rural and urban areas
273 to reach equal growth;
- 274 iii. Inviting Member States to provide support in order to increase the utilization of recyclable
275 materials, especially in private sectors;
- 276 iv. Providing attendees the tools to identify business opportunities in the recycling industry;
- 277 v. Encouraging the development of new technologies to make recycling more efficient and
278 affordable;
- 279 vi. Developing tax incentives to promote recycling by the private sector;
- 280
- 281 d. Preventing deforestation by:
- 282
- 283 i. Using non-forest land and unproductive land to develop communities and satisfy human
284 needs avoiding deforestation;
- 285 ii. Promoting efficacy of using the space in construction and human buildings;
- 286 iii. Promoting reforestation and afforestation with a better management of water to recreate
287 forests in arid and not fertile places using desalination by the use of new innovative projects
288 and specific techniques such as solar energy or nuclear energy to help with this process,
289 canalization, particularly the creation and use of dams and systems for storing rainwater in
290 order to efficiently exploit all water sources which could be essential for the reforestation;
- 291 iv. Also promoting sustainable agriculture through processes including, inter alia, crop rotation
292 which is the practice of planting a different crop during each planting season cover crops such
293 as alfalfa and barley in order to prevent soil erosion and depletion of nutrients, soil
294 revitalization;
- 295
- 296 13. *Reminds* Member States of the need to strengthen the capacity of civil society to participate and supervise and
297 the need to establish an independent recourse and complaint mechanisms to improve transparency and
298 accountability;
- 299
- 300 14. *Recommends* Member States to provide financial support to create and implement recycling programs,
301 promoting the establishment of sustainable waste management standards, enhancing the use of waste separation
302 in adequate categories such as plastic, paper and glass;
- 303
- 304 15. *Urges* Member States to further develop and improve upon their ecotourism industries by following the
305 example of the UN Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) "Train for Trade" in order to boost
306 their economy by:
- 307
- 308 a. Building capacity;
- 309
- 310 b. Developing a voluntary database of partners from the private sector with the purpose of promoting
311 international tourism;
- 312
- 313 c. The creation of virtual platforms which help people become aware and educated on environmental
314 movements in order to intervene properly if a behavior of public administration is considered harmful
315 for the ecosystem;
- 316
- 317 d. Promoting regional cooperation;
- 318
- 319 e. Promoting a healthier environment;
- 320
- 321 16. *Further urges* Member States to implement an Integrated Forest Zone Management (IFZM) based on the
322 concept of Integrated Coastal Zone Management, which is detailed in *Agenda 21*, that promotes a sustainable
323 development of forested areas while giving the affected regional stakeholders a chance to voice their concerns
324 and add their invaluable specific knowledge about the challenges specific to the areas;
- 325
- 326 17. *Endorses* WTO's Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET) as a tool for continuing improvement of ecotourism as a
327 means to protect the environment for the benefit of all Member States and specifically their regional forests:

- 328 a. Recommending all Member States to strengthen the capacity of forestry management by preventing
329 forest fires;
330
- 331 b. Inviting Member States to create pilot programs for reporting fires accidents and promoting immediate
332 response when there is a fire in the national parks, reserves and green areas;
333
- 334 c. Preventing the illegal burning of forests by providing alternative and efficient methods for clearing the
335 land;
336
- 337 d. Strengthening local governance ability to improve peat lands fire monitoring and alerts;
338
- 339 e. Encouraging the implementation of electronic devices in trees that are located in strategic areas to
340 detect fire and smoke and notify to forest rangers;
341
- 342 18. *Affirms* the need for governmental bodies and NGOs to diminish hindrances caused by both regional and
343 international conflict on a Member State's ability to best address SFM and the SDGs;
344
- 345 19. *Further decides* to strengthen its alliance with NGOs, such as the Forests Stewardship Council, to provide
346 advisory services such as:
347
- 348 a. Assisting in the development and utilization of the monitoring framework for the programs
349 implemented in the pilot regions;
350
- 351 b. Assisting in the implementation of a fixed criteria for vast forest based regions to assess the
352 performance in conservancy;
353
- 354 20. *Calls upon* Member States to utilize CAC as an anti-corruption framework focusing on four main pillars:
355 prevention, criminalization of corruption, international cooperation and asset recovery;
356
- 357 21. *Further recommends* for Member States to utilize the Environmental Assessment Impact (EAI) that provides
358 evaluation and information of environment effects incurred by proposed projects to ensure decision-making for
359 incentives will be carried out fairly.



Code: UNEP/1/2

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*
2
3 *Welcoming* the recent 2015 *Paris Agreement* as part of the *United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate*
4 *Change (UNFCCC)*, and the role of the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation
5 and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) safeguards as they relate to public awareness, curbing
6 emissions, and protecting the rights of indigenous people,
7
8 *Affirming* Articles 11, 13, 20, 21, and 22 of the *UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*,
9
10 *Recalling* the *Forest Principles* of 1992 which recommended mechanisms for conservation and sustainable
11 development, and General Assembly (GA) resolution 62/98, which stipulates that forests be managed in order to
12 meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural, and spiritual needs of present and future generations,
13
14 *Further recalling* Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 7 and 15, which address the issues of sustainable
15 agriculture and preventing deforestation while emphasizing the crucial nature of sharing knowledge to foster
16 international cooperation and development in the field of forestry conservation and to further implement the use of
17 affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy,
18
19 *Recognizing* the sovereign right of Member States to choose the best solutions for their domestic needs,
20
21 *Having considered* the overall focus of the UN-REDD Programme to empower countries and allow them to
22 implement strategies from the UN-REDD Programme Strategy Framework 2016-2020 and to build on the
23 experience and success of the UN-REDD Programme in developing Member States across the globe from 2008-
24 2015,
25
26 *Recognizing* that the UN-REDD Programme and its active financing component REDD+ have been unable to rectify
27 all of the issues related to deforestation, but has the potential to be more effective in more Member States,
28
29 *Aware of* the selection procedure used by the UN-REDD Executive Board to determine a Member State's eligibility
30 for receiving funding through the UN-REDD+ Programme, but desiring that the Executive Board consider factors
31 that increase inclusiveness,
32
33 *Further recognizing* the need to expand on the scope and the existing mechanisms to improve the ability of the
34 program to make transformative and efficient change,
35
36 *Realizing* the efforts made by the international community to conserve forest areas which are dependent on the
37 enforcement of regional, national, and local policies and laws,
38
39 *Observing* the success of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest
40 Certification (PEFC) in combatting illicit deforestation,
41
42 *Keeping in mind* the lack of authentic connection between the regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and
43 local committees, as both parties play a substantial role in education and capacity-building measures for the
44 development and implementation of environmental policy,
45
46 *Noting the importance* of civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, and other Members of its Major Groups and
47 Stakeholders Branch, and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the process of
48 raising awareness on the importance of forest conservation and preservation of forest ecosystems and biodiversity,
49

50 *Having studied* the idea of sustainable energy and a concise plan to combat deforestation at the basis of the UN
51 Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and *Agenda 21* both of which aims to affirm the principles
52 and recommendations on substantive forest conservation, identifying those problems to be urgently addressed,
53

54 *Fully aware* of the need for cooperation among Member States in order to halt deforestation and increase forests'
55 productive capacity by sharing expertise and transferring technology, which results in economies that improve
56 human well-being, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcity,
57

58 *Recognizing* that the efforts already put in place by the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative to provide
59 renewable energies throughout the world play a significant role in decreasing deforestation and therefore need to be
60 further developed and funded to reach rural areas, emphasizing the need for rural development,
61

62 1. *Calls upon* the Executive Board of the UN-REDD Programme to expand the focus of the Programme to include
63 other aspects of deforestation, not specifically related to reducing emissions, but includes:
64

65 a. Addressing actions to improve forest sustainability, economy, and civil societies through:
66

- 67 i. Securing forest conservation and preservation for future generations;
- 68 ii. Creating new living space in deforested areas;
- 69 iii. Expanding ecotourism, to secure a sustainable livelihood for people in harmony with the
70 environment;
- 71 iv. Recognizing native and underrepresented cultures and traditions that rely on surrounding
72 forests;
- 73 v. Empowering civil society organizations, for a strong private and civil protection;
- 74 vi. Fueling green economic development through establishing jobs in the wildlife management
75 and sustainable agriculture sectors;
- 76

77 b. Altering the requirements for acceptance of Member States into both the UN-REDD and UN-REDD+
78 programs by:
79

- 80 i. Allowing a state to be recommended by the UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA);
- 81 ii. Welcoming a statement of openness to international aid and partnerships in regards to forest
82 management practices;
- 83 iii. Endorsing a concrete and openly available governmental plan for the usage of REDD+ funds,
84 which will be approved by and advised upon by the Policy Board;
- 85

86 c. Expanding the UN-REDD Programme to include an application-based exchange program that:
87

- 88 i. Consists of forest management experts, governmental officials, and researchers;
- 89 ii. Maintains focus on learning and developing practices in conjunction with the aforementioned
90 members by enabling these individuals to travel and research forest management practices in
91 partner countries;
- 92 iii. Implements this program with the aim of allowing for cross state benefits in the sphere of
93 common and diverse sustainable forestry management practices;
- 94 iv. Encourages establishing a database of the best practices from which developing and
95 underdeveloped Member States can study and alter, with the advisement of the UN-REDD
96 Programme, past strategies to best suit their domestic needs;
- 97

98 d. Expanding strategies and programs based on REDD+ to a regional level in order to offer the best
99 protection to forests for economic, social, and environmental benefit through:
100

- 101 i. Establishing regional measurements based on scientific research and the mentioned database;
- 102 ii. Developing different strategies to stimulate ecosystem-specific sustainable forest
103 management;
- 104 iii. Building sub-centers to promote and exchange regional-based information;
- 105

- 106 e. Endorses an annually-recurring conference regarding the best practices in sustainable forest
107 management, which would be co-sponsored by the three UN organizations involved in the
108 administration of the UN-REDD Programme, UNEP, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and
109 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), and will be attended by national government
110 officials, representatives of NGOs, representatives of disenfranchised and historically marginalized
111 peoples, and others involved in the development of sustainable forest management practices;
112
- 113 f. Endorses the FSC and the PEFC verification programs as the international standards for timber
114 certification of the UN-REDD Programme;
115
- 116 2. *Strongly recommends* the development of grassroots strategies that implement locally-sourced, community-
117 based sustainable forestry management programs with the goal of achieving the increased independence of
118 communities affected on a regional level by:
119
- 120 a. Ensuring sustainable management of forestry that maximizes efficiency and better serves the needs of
121 local populations within the context of that region's unique ecology;
122
- 123 b. Creating incentives for underrepresented citizens to invest traditional, sustainable knowledge and
124 practices in forest conservation with the aim of cultural preservation along with the alleviation of rural
125 poverty;
126
- 127 c. Promoting the collection of traditional, cultural knowledge and practices into a UN-REDD database
128 that is accessible to all Member States, researchers, and citizens;
129
- 130 3. *Suggests* cooperation of Member States in "Regional Reporting on Environmental System Progress" (RRESP)
131 workshops organized through UN-REDD between regional and local organizations with major government
132 officials with the purpose of:
133
- 134 a. Establishing consultation conferences which directly address the governmental policies of the Member
135 States and urge them to endorse the importance of environmental education and simultaneously
136 promote these sustainable forest management practices on a local, regional, and national level;
137
- 138 b. Creating committees made up of citizens of all Member States, as well as those within native and
139 underrepresented communities, the workshops that are committed to creating advisory reforestation
140 plans which are tailored to countries' needs in workshop capacity;
141
- 142 c. Encouraging the development of systematic criteria plans that are available to any country, but which
143 focus on developing countries and those that run the risk of deforestation and environmental depletion;
144
- 145 d. Requiring UN-REDD Programme officials involved in the RRESP workshops to present these
146 specialized forest restoration plans to the Member State and distribute the curriculum to its schools and
147 NGOs;
148
- 149 e. Further requesting curriculum created within the workshop committees to the region's schools and
150 NGOs, which will facilitate a horizontal connection between the schools and the NGOs;
151
- 152 f. Requesting an assessment of the impact of current UN-REDD Programme initiatives on local
153 communities and facilitating data sharing through RRESP workshops amongst local, national, regional
154 and international stakeholders;
155
- 156 g. Approving the transfer information regarding best forest management practices and the application of
157 said practices on a regional and international level;
158
- 159 h. Facilitating the development of region wide agreements which promote collaborative solutions
160 between neighboring Member States and NGOs in support of sustainable forest management within
161 the UN-REDD program;

- 162 4. *Emphasizes* education and the sharing of technology as a catalyst for the distribution of knowledge for the
163 implementation of renewable and alternative energy sources through mechanisms such as:
164
- 165 a. Providing for education programs in a way that respects the cultural heritage of underrepresented
166 citizens in rural and impoverished areas as well as the local and regional areas;
 - 167
 - 168 b. Ensuring that environmentally-oriented civil societies of the Member States are comprised of the local
169 citizens that live in the particular Member State working in conjunction with technical experts;
 - 170
 - 171 c. Ensuring that funds delegated by the REDD+ Program during the readiness phase of financing are
172 utilized, at least in part, for the distribution of the necessary hardware and the technical capacity
173 necessary to effectively use technology in an advantageous manner to better aid environmentally-
174 oriented civil societies;
 - 175
 - 176 d. Encouraging the establishment of equal partnerships between the pertinent educational institutions and
177 the environmentally-oriented civil societies to better facilitate the exchange of technical knowledge
178 and ability;
 - 179
- 180 5. *Requests* its Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch to work alongside UNESCO in an informative campaign
181 through mass media and social networks in order to:
182
- 183 a. Raise awareness on the importance of forests for the fight against climate change and the positive
184 impact they have on the livelihood of people;
 - 185
 - 186 b. Reduce the prevailing level of deforestation by promoting tree planting activities and other activities
187 aimed at protecting ecosystems and biodiversity of forests;
 - 188
 - 189 c. Work with citizens from an early age to teach them the importance of forest related resources and the
190 impact they have on the public;
 - 191
- 192 6. *Encourages* all Member States to share expertise, information, knowledge and technology in order to expand
193 the sustainable forest management practices and the importance of forests for the achievement of sustainability
194 through:
195
- 196 a. Increasing the communication between its regional offices coordinating with national environmental
197 bodies of their encompassing Member States to ensure the effective transfer of information and
198 technology among Member States;
 - 199
 - 200 b. Facilitating the movement of experienced personnel from developed countries to developing countries
201 to work together and provide them with adequate training, knowledge and technical know-how with
202 regards to preservation and sustainability of forests;
 - 203
 - 204 c. The implementation of incentive programs by UN-REDD members at their discretion in order to
205 reward private stakeholders to keep the annual deforestation-rate below 1.5 percent through UN-
206 REDD certification;
 - 207
- 208 7. *Urges* Member States to take practical steps towards ensuring the growth and transformation of economies with
209 the focus on preserving and protecting forests by:
210
- 211 a. Establishing and creating awareness of green economies by using new urban development policies and
212 ideas to create landscapes most conducive to sustainable forestry management;
 - 213
 - 214 b. Encouraging partnerships regionally and internationally with regards to forestry management practices
215 to collaborate and develop sustainable principles as well as long term plans for future sustainability;
 - 216

- 217 8. *Encourages* the development of sustainable biomass technology and stresses the benefits of additional
218 renewable energy methods based on locally and nationally available resources by:
219
- 220 a. Expanding of the SE4All initiative to provide renewable energies to Member States through
221 technological cooperation between developed countries and developing countries;
222
- 223 b. Encouraging the adhesion of Member States to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA),
224 whereby those Member States will be evaluated to determine the best alternatives energy sources and
225 technologies that are relevant and consistent with their national priorities, to further be available as a
226 forum for knowledge-sharing and technical cooperation by recommending the creation of private-
227 public partnerships between Member States and private companies to incentivize wider adoption of
228 sustainable biomass as a source of energy through the following mechanisms, and:
229
- 230 i. Cooperating with the IRENA/Abu Dhabi Fund for Development Project Facility, which offers
231 concessional loans over seven annual funding cycles to promising renewable energy projects
232 in developing countries that can cover up to 50 percent of project expenses;
233 ii. Coordinating funds such as the “Forest Investment Program” (FIP) working on financing
234 sustainable forest management to coordinate with UN offices in the Member States by:
235
- 236 1. Supporting the public’s use of renewable energies in impoverished areas;
237 2. Establishing concrete potential for expansion of offices established by NGOs after an
238 examination through the UN-REDD program;
239 3. Underlining the importance of cultural sensitivity when working directly with local
240 community leaders and members.



Code: UNEP/1/3

Committee: United Nations Environmental Programme

Topic: Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*

2
3 *Bearing in mind* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15.2, which advocates for afforestation and reforestation,

4
5 *Noting also* SDG 15.9, which states the importance to biodiversity to create local approaches,

6
7 *Seeking* international partnerships in regards to timber and logging agreements,

8
9 *Observing* that renewable resources are a vital part in global eco-community,

10
11 *Having considered* the success of the Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Trade (EGILAT) lead by the Asia-
12 Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Member States,

13
14 *Stressing* a need for experts on the topic of reforestation efforts in collaboration with the United Nations (UN)
15 Development Programme (UNDP) in regards to knowledge management,

16
17 *Looking forward* to encouraging openness while respecting state sovereignty,

18
19 *Recognizing* the need to combat deforestation within Member States, and realizing the reality that developing
20 Member States may need aid within their own economies to reach reforestation goals,

21
22 *Alarmed and concerned* by the rapid rate of deforestation and degradation worldwide,

23
24 1. *Invites* Member States to work towards successful completion of SDGs 15.2 and 15.9;

25
26 2. *Suggests* the creation of multilateral agreements amongst Member States to facilitate shipping of Legally and
27 Sustainably Harvested (LSH) timber and that would:

28
29 a. Serve as measures of transparency in fair and adequate shipping methods through accurate labeling of
30 confirmed LSH certified wood, and Member States are encouraged to purchase LSH certified wood
31 incentivizing all countries and businesses to improve their forestry management practices;

32
33 b. Intend to make Member States' eligible for universal monetary assistance for intellectual consultation
34 in moving towards LSH practices;

35
36 3. *Strongly asks* Member States to consider using reforestation and afforestation as strategies in regions that are in
37 need of sizeable increases in land area covered in forests that:

38
39 a. Promote reforestation as the strategy when afforestation is encroaching on other ecosystems;

40
41 b. Keep forests within a carrying capacity that does not exceed its natural boundaries;

42
43 4. *Recalls* the role of the EGILAT and its commitment to utilizing the findings in an open source information
44 sharing platform allowing Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries and other Member States to
45 openly communicate on technological and economic advances in the forestry sector, and:

46
47 a. Encouraging participation in multilateral open trade agreements which are not treaty bound and are
48 therefore open to information sharing on a global scale;

49

- 50 b. Calls other APEC countries to action to share findings decided to pertain to the forestry sector made in
51 the EGILAT in order to benefit the global timber trade;
52
- 53 5. *Insists* on the creation of a panel of experts sponsored by the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) and
54 representatives of Member States to:
55
- 56 a. Evaluate countries through participation in the UNDP's Knowledge Management strategy and report
57 these Member States' success on this initiative in regards to their reforestation efforts on an annual
58 basis;
59
- 60 b. Provides intellectual assistance on biodiversity, forest ecosystem services, and other sustainable forest
61 management practices;
62
- 63 6. *Strongly encourages* the collaboration of Member States in an assembly to promote international involvement,
64 and:
65
- 66 a. Directs attention to discussing transparency, Member States are encouraged to participate in a council
67 of willing states in which they will look into predetermined and specific qualifications regarding legal
68 logging and sustainable forest management;
69
- 70 b. Intends to keep and reassure state sovereignty, no Member States will be required to reveal information
71 that is not pertaining to this assembly;
72
- 73 7. *Recommends* a fund that will be administered by The Reforestation Investment Council, a new body working
74 within UNEP built on a drop-in drop-out basis with voluntary contributions working towards the long-term,
75 sustainable development of all Member States, developing and developed, and:
76
- 77 a. Supports the creation of a fund to support developing Member States wishing to implement
78 reforestation and sustainable forest management practices;
79
- 80 b. Urging Member States to consider using the Polluter Pays Principle (PPP), based on language laid out
81 in Principle 16 of the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* and welcomes direct
82 monetary contributions from Member States and the donor community to the beyond PPP support;
83
- 84 c. Recommends PPP contribution levels based on reforestation, and quality of ecosystem services such as
85 emissions, biodiversity, soil creation, and water retention and purification;
86
- 87 d. Establishes that Member States will be provided with incentives based on need and demonstrated
88 commitment to reforestation approaches that create local employment opportunities, increase
89 biodiversity and local ecosystem services as measured by REDD+ and other ecosystem services
90 valuation tools as they are developed;
91
- 92 8. *Requests* that all Member States participate in a collaboration within UNEP in an effort to better the world
93 through cooperation and reforestation.



Code: UNEP/1/4

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Subject: Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*

2
3 *Expressing deep concern* regarding the scale of deforestation and the health of ecosystems pertaining to both
4 biodiversity and human health, while understanding the need to spread awareness throughout the world pertaining to
5 the dangers of unsustainable forest management practices and that 30 percent of total global emissions are
6 contributed by deforestation,

7
8 *Reaffirming* our commitment to the Forest Principles and acknowledging the work of the United Nations (UN)
9 Forum on Forests (UNFF), which has the objective of promoting the conservation, sustainable development, and
10 management of all forests and is based on the forest principles of the *Rio Declaration* and *Agenda 21*,

11
12 *Recalling* the UN Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD and REDD+), which
13 encourage involvement from all stakeholders, especially those dependent on forests, and also extending gratitude to
14 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs),

15
16 *Deeply conscious* of General Assembly (GA) resolution 62/98 that encourages Member States to publically invest
17 toward financing education,

18
19 *Respecting* the autonomy and national sovereignty of each Member State in addressing deforestation and sustainable
20 forest management practices, in accordance to national law and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiatives,

21
22 *Emphasizing* the Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance, which assists governments and
23 stakeholders in assessing and monitoring forest governance, specifically in the aspects of policy, planning, and
24 implementation,

25
26 *Acknowledging* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN's (FAO) Collaborative Partnership on Forests
27 (CPF), a voluntary forum of international organizations used as a channel for the discussion of Sustainable Forest
28 Management (SFM) practices and the development of strategic partnerships,

29
30 1. *Recommends* the creation of a Global Campaign for Research and Technology, Environmental Sustainability,
31 and the Empowerment to Native and Local Communities (GREEN);

32
33 2. *Introduces* the creation of a global campaign to promote awareness and share technological advancements
34 regarding sustainable forest management practices, as well as raise awareness about the dangers of illegal
35 logging through programs such as UN-REDD and the UN International Day of Forests:

36
37 a. Which will include digital and recyclable print media along with international events;

38
39 b. That specifically address indigenous peoples, farmers, and those whose livelihoods are most dependent
40 on forests;

41
42 c. The significance and the dangers of illegal logging will be addressed:

43
44 i. Through sharing information between governments about ideas and practices that have proven
45 successful;

46
47 ii. By creating policies and best practices for citizens about illegal logging to inform and educate
48 Member States;

49
50 iii. Through increased awareness of the consequences of illegal logging such as loss of
livelihood, the distortions of timber markets, and forest resource assessments, and to act as the
disincentive for sustainable forest management;

- 51 d. Which would involve the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), NGOs, CSOs, and other UN
52 international organizations such as the UNFF;
53
- 54 e. That will be funded through the Environment Fund of UNEP and through certain Non-State Actors;
55
- 56 3. *Advises* the update and improvement of the existing UNEP Live database including a sustainable forest
57 management theme, which would allow governments and distinguished UN scientists to share scientific
58 research and advancements in sustainable technologies related to SFM practices, and:
59
- 60 a. Encourages the diffusion of scientific research and advancements in technology to support developing
61 countries and local communities;
62
- 63 b. That stresses the importance of the future function of UNEP Live as an online registry for SFM
64 purposes of tracking logging activities, effectively addressing forest degradation, raising public
65 awareness, and available to participating public and private entities including individual citizens, CSOs
66 and corporations;
67
- 68 c. Which emphasizes the importance of implementing alternative energy sources at the community and
69 state level in order to decrease the demand for biomass, construction materials, and other
70 nonrenewable resources thus drawing attention to a potential cooperation with the *Sustainable Energy
71 for All* (SE4All) programme;
72
- 73 d. Recognizes that many least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) do
74 not have the same Information and Communication Technology capabilities as more developed states
75 and therefore need more technical, developmental, educational, and infrastructural assistance to attain
76 access to such databases and programs;
77
- 78 4. *Authorizes* the creation and application and creation of an educative SFM practices program by the end of 2018
79 which would include:
80
- 81 a. Through extending and fostering preexisting UN Fellowship Programmes into the field of SFM
82 practices in order to promote strategies to support developing countries, enabling individuals to acquire
83 specialized knowledge in more advanced Nations:
84
- 85 i. Through fellowships that will be attributed by the Training and Fellowship Section of the UN
86 Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) of the UN Secretariat in
87 collaboration with UNEP;
88
- 89 ii. With candidates nominated by Member States will be able to apply on a voluntary basis;
90
- 91 iii. In order to promote strategies to support developing countries, enabling individuals to acquire
92 higher education and specialized knowledge in more advanced States that will participate in
93 the development of interested countries;
94
- 95 b. By requesting the development of *International Guides of Sustainable Agriculture*, in conjunction with
96 international and national experts including REDD+ directly providing accurate, to provide accurate
97 information on sustainable agriculture and farming methods online, as well as to local farmers and
98 communities through respective REDD+ experts;
99
- 100 c. That creates a voluntary program, known as the Drop-in Drop-out, for Member States to access in
101 order to provide local communities with a standard set of SFM principles:
102
- 103 i. This program is a framework of standards from which individual nations are able to draw in
104 order to create their own policies about SFM, including soil management, diversification,
105 grazing management, and water management;
106
- 107 ii. A partnership with the UN Development Program (UNDP) shall be used in order to allow
these programs to be implemented into lesser developed nations, at the host country's
discretion;

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- d. Implement a grassroots campaign reaching local and indigenous population, promoting economic development and job creation through:
 - i. By involvement of local population in projects to protect forests and prevent illegal logging;
 - ii. Through modernization of farming and logging equipment;
 - 5. *Establishes* the annual Regional Coalition Conferences on Forest Sustainability (RCCFS) of the Americas, Africa, The Middle East, Europe, and Asia, organized by the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) Secretariat, serving as a platform for Member States, non-state actors and stakeholders to exchange experiences in SFM related topics, that further:
 - a. Provides a platform to exchange knowledge and experiences in the promotion of transparency, accountability, regional logging policies, and best practices, on the following topics:
 - i. With discussion of national forest enforcement procedures and mechanisms such as enforcement units dedicated and trained on forest management and sustainability in line with SFM, and;
 - ii. Through the emulation and implementation of existing and successful national enforcement mechanisms such as the National Forest Service in the United States of America;
 - b. Promotes the importance of combating forest fires that destroy biodiversity, endanger communities and create pollution that escalates climate change, and therefore is committed to the capacity building in how to:
 - i. Create early warning systems for wild fire prevention in international collaboration with the Global Forest Watch that is already working in the Southeast Asia Region;
 - ii. Educate farmers who use slash and burn techniques on proper control burning practices as a means to further agriculture;
 - iii. Provide for states within regional coalition to collaborate in the event of a fire, at their discretion;
 - 6. *Draws attention* to the potential of the Global Environmental Facility as an efficient funding opportunity for Member States' specific projects promoting knowledge, information sharing, and public awareness among local populations with additional funding from the FAO and urges the RCCFS to pursue the involvement of and accept funding and donations from local actors and communities.



Code: UNEP/1/5

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices

1 *The United Nations Environmental Programme,*

2
3 *Alarmed by* the fast pace of forest degradation while being aware that the livelihoods of more than 1.6 billion people
4 are crucially dependent on forests, as forests provide a multitude of benefits to the environment and the general
5 quality of life for millions of people,

6
7 *Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,* established under General Assembly (GA) resolution 70/1
8 (2015), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4, 12, 13, 15, referring specifically to knowledge, consumption
9 and production, climate action, and life on land in particular management of sustainable forests,

10
11 *Further recalling* GA resolution 62/98 (2008), which established the *Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types*
12 *of Forests*, and recognizes that economically, socially, and politically sustainable progress in forest preservation can
13 only be achieved through multilateral cooperation on a regional level across national borders, while addressing
14 future generations' needs,

15
16 *Recognizing* that economically, socially, and politically sustainable progress in forest preservation can only be
17 achieved through multilateral cooperation on a regional level across national borders,

18
19 *Bearing in mind* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) framework to Sustainable
20 Forest Management (SFM), which reiterates Chapter 11 of *Agenda 21*, which was adopted by the United Nations
21 (UN) in 1992 and specifies ways to implement SFM practices,

22
23 *Being aware* that paperless consumption will significantly reduce the amounts of carbon emissions in the
24 atmosphere by decreasing the amount of deforestation,

25
26 *Recognizing* the importance of good governance within Member States to help promote and ensure protection of
27 forested regions,

28
29 *Acknowledging* the UN Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) Forum on Forests (UNFF) as a common base
30 for the creation of SFM practices,

31
32 *Bearing in mind* the *Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species in Flora and Fauna* (CITES), as
33 well as the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) and the protocols thereto,

34
35 *Further recognizing* the UN Collaborative Initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest
36 Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) as the current international standard of SFM practices,

37
38 *Recalling* the establishment of the UN-REDD Safeguards under Dec 1/CP.16, Dec 12/CP.17 and Dec 12/CP.19,
39 which guarantee a Human Rights-based approach towards SFM practices,

40
41 *Noting with concern* corrupt practices within UN-REDD that should be addressed through concrete mechanisms in
42 order to improve transparency, integrity and accountability within the UN-REDD initiative,

43
44 *Being mindful* of the Report of the Secretary-General on Forests and Climate Change from 2009, E/CN.18/2009/4,
45 paragraph 6, stating the fact that developing countries (DCs) and least developed countries (LDCs) need extensive
46 capacity building and institutional development activities,

47
48 1. *Urges* ECOSOC to create a regional wood certification system which certifies timber that:

49
50 a. Fulfills the requirements set forth by CITES and the CBD as well as the protocols thereto;

- 51 b. Ensures reforestation in the area in which the timber was harvested, following the principle of “cut
52 one, plant one” or neutrality of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Forestry;
53
- 54 c. Allowing stakeholders to forest in host country if they work alongside mangrove ecologists, local non-
55 governmental organizations (NGOs), and working locals to reforest through the Mangrove
56 Conservation and Restoration Project in order to prevent flooding;
57
- 58 d. Has been harvested in an ecologically friendly environment defined by UN-REDD standards;
59
- 60 2. *Further urges* ECOSOC to amend the UN-REDD Safeguards to enhance the incentive program and establish
61 Peer Review Micro Groups which shall:
62
- 63 a. Consist of one government representative, one UN-REDD+ representative and a NGO or civil society
64 organization (CSO) representative pertaining to the same UN-REDD sponsored project; with the
65 participating NGO or CSO to be mutually agreed upon by the UN-REDD board and the national
66 government;
67
- 68 b. Overlook any programme funded through UN-REDD+ and the affiliated Multi Partner Trust Fund and
69 the Forest Investment Program;
70
- 71 c. Monitor the flow of funds and submit the biannual reports to the UN-REDD secretariat, which will
72 guarantee a transparent monitoring and mitigate judicial institutional shortcomings;
73
- 74 d. Receive funding for their work from the Multi Partner Trust Fund and the REDD+ incentive programs,
75 which would consist in;
76
- 77 3. *Highly encourages* all Member States to establish national programs to promote and increase awareness of
78 paperless consumption via:
79
- 80 a. Tax incentives (such as tax credit) for merchants promoting reusable bags and packaging;
81
- 82 b. A tax on thinner plastic bags in accordance with its current standards with the proceeds of the tax
83 funded towards the education programs mentioned in the previous operative clause;
84
- 85 c. The organization of nationwide media campaigns addressing corporations, manufacturers and young
86 consumers promoting eco-friendly practices to influence production and consumption behaviors;
87
- 88 4. *Recommends* an improvement of the implementation of good governance, understood as the way that private
89 and public stakeholders negotiate, decide and enforce binding decisions on forest matters which looks like:
90
- 91 a. Assistance in strengthening the local rule of law and:
92
- 93 i. Providing specialists to Member States to assist in establishing clearly specified and
94 documented legal rights on land in regards to forest sustainability officials;
95 ii. Promotion of simpler and more feasible rules in regards to SFM wherever possible,
96 recognizing communities limited capacities while continuing to effectively monitor;
97 iii. Establishing and strengthening local enforcing mechanisms to secure the ownership and their
98 rights through empowering people to use any available technology;
99
- 100 b. Improving local accountability and transparency to:
101
- 102 i. Establish a clear pathway for the provision and access to SFM information;
103 ii. Establish a system and mechanisms for reporting grievances and misbehavior;
104
- 105 c. Strengthening local participatory and decision making to:
106

- 107 i. Help unorganized groups assemble in associations united with a goal to work toward effective
108 SFM;
- 109 ii. Promote platforms that encourage local coordination and conflict management;
- 110 iii. Encourage and assist small communities in participatory land-use planning, policy-making
111 and budgeting;
- 112
- 113 d. Improving local governance effectiveness and efficiency to:
- 114
- 115 i. Increase responsiveness through reorienting agencies towards tailored rural service providers;
- 116 ii. Develop effective monitoring and evaluation systems at local and central levels;
- 117
- 118 5. *Encourages* ECOSOC to expand the UNFF during its odd-year sessions, in order to incorporate regional
119 knowledge and technology forums concerning deforestation which:
- 120
- 121 a. Grant Member States the opportunity to discuss and share sustainable forest technologies and related
122 challenges within regional ecological groups according to their environmental conditions;
- 123
- 124 b. Consist of a conference where Member States and CSOs would share their technological advances and
125 their progress on forest management practices;
- 126
- 127 c. Shall use synergies by being managed by the UN High Level Committee on Programmes Working
128 Group on Climate Change, in addition to being under the patronage provided by the UNFF;
- 129
- 130 d. Shall further be provided through the general UN Environment Fund, the General Environment
131 Facility, and the United Nations Adaptation Fund;
- 132
- 133 6. *Calls upon* Member States to support, in accordance with their own capacities, DCs and LDCs that do not
134 possess the capacity to implement ecological practices for properly harvesting timber, as technical knowledge
135 can be more valuable than solely financial support.



Code: UNEP/1/6

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*
2
3 *Reaffirming* the commitment to international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in Articles 1 and 2 of the
4 *Charter of the United Nations*, including the sovereign equality of all Member States, the promotion of international
5 cooperation in solving international problems, and the respect for human rights,
6
7 *Acknowledging* the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*, the *United Nations Convention to Combat*
8 *Desertification (UNCCD)* and the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*, and the
9 *2015 UNFCCC Paris Agreement* as the main conventions in relation to forests issues,
10
11 *Recalling* Articles 4.8 and 4.9 of the UNFCCC that recognize Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in relation to the
12 adverse impacts of climate related phenomenon,
13
14 *Guided* by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 15, which acknowledges the special needs
15 of Small Island Developing States (SIDs), LDCs, and all Member States adversely affected by climate change and
16 the importance of sustainability using our forests to combat desertification and slowing land degradation to halt
17 biodiversity loss,
18
19 *Reminding* all nations to take part in the celebration of International Day of Forests, held on 21 March¹, which was
20 adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) through resolution 67/200 on 21 December 2012 and
21 reminds us of the importance of the world's forests and ecosystems,
22
23 *Aware* of the fact that deforestation accounts for 17% of global greenhouse gas emissions,
24
25 *Viewing with appreciation* the efforts of successful regional economic communities such as the Common Market for
26 Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West
27 African States (ECOWAS), and Southern African Development Community (SDC) as they have continually
28 fostered policies respectful of national sovereignty while also contributing to sustainable environmental
29 development,
30
31 *Acknowledges* the vital roles that non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and
32 local communities can play in the improvement of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices and that
33 communication between these organizations can be improved,
34
35 *Fully aware* of the sentiments expressed in GA resolution 68/234 requesting to improve private sector cooperation
36 outlined in the Guidelines on Cooperation between the UN and all-relevant private partners,
37
38 *Deeply conscious* of the threat the illegal usage of Member States' forests for drug and human trafficking poses to
39 sustainable forest management by those who remove trees to plant marijuana and degrade forests to sustain
40 smuggling routes,
41
42 *Bearing in mind* that the responsible management of forest resources is vital through processes such as log tracking
43 which document the logging process from production to consumption,
44
45 *Further approves* the efforts of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) for their assessment of the
46 impact of CIFOR's SFM Indicators & Criteria Research, specifically the purpose for evaluating the eligibility of
47 timber companies for certain timber certifications,
48 *Desiring* a strengthened International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), which works to ensure
49 perpetrators of serious crimes against the environment and wildlife face a cohesive response from criminal justice
50 organizations around the globe,

51 *Expresses its hope* that Member States attend the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), which has been a valuable source
52 of information on forest resources as well as progress on the implementation of domestic policies,
53
54 *Noting with approval* the impact the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and
55 Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) has had on defining at-risk environments,
56
57 *Calls upon* the international community to support the Community Based Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Project
58 (CBCMB) as an important program for sustainable forest management practices, as it trains local authorities to
59 manage woodcutting, poaching and overfishing, which are activities, when asserted abusively, that have exerted
60 considerable pressure on the world's natural resources,
61
62 *Fully aware* of the important steps already taken in mitigating the destruction of forest resources by the
63 implementation of the UN Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Programme (UN-
64 REDD+),
65
66 *Keeping in mind* the importance of forests to the world's ecosystems due to the resources found in them that provide
67 sustenance and livelihood vital for human development and existence,
68
69 *Recognizing* the efforts and resources of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in combating climate change,
70
71 *Supporting* approaches which view developing countries as those who are in particular need of aid requiring
72 additional financial and technological assistance, as a means of reducing reliance on the use of lumber resources,
73
74 *Endorses* the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for its Forestry Conservation Programme
75 which educates and encourages rural and indigenous communities on how to reduce deforestation,
76
77 *Promoting* that ethnobotanical ecosystems, such as sacred groves, should be preserved due to their vital importance
78 to both ecological and local religious communities,
79
80 *Reminding* the international community that investments in developing countries are vital means for creating a
81 sustainable global ecological future,
82
83 1. *Urges* Member States to voluntarily accommodate different regional policies when defining environmental
84 legislature, in order to protect the interests of regional ecosystems through:
85
86 a. The engagement of regional economic communities in information sharing and collaboration to
87 promote synergy among like-minded bodies through:
88
89 i. The organization of yearly meetings of regional economic communities such as COMESA,
90 EAC, ECOWAS, and SDC in order to better provide for the environmental security for
91 Member States;
92 ii. Suggesting venues such as the UN Programme Regional Offices will be open for the purpose
93 of conducting regional meetings on climate action;
94
95 b. The collaboration of Member States who have similar forests and ecosystems to promote unified
96 environmental policies and effective forest management;
97
98 c. The endorsement of increased transparency efforts between businesses and other private sector
99 organizations operating in forested areas through customizable data sharing programs operating on the
100 national and local levels;
101
102 2. *Affirms* its alliance with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), which aims at combatting
103 deforestation and forest degradation caused by transnational drug and human trafficking and recommends
104 Member States to:
105

- 106 a. Further utilize the ICCWC under the UN Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), which seeks to
107 develop an analytical toolkit for technical assistance in order to:
108
- 109 i. Support capacity building programs within Member States that are regionally specific and
110 work to increase the availability of tools and technology for the purposes of environmental
111 crime analysis and prevention;
112 ii. Increase national assistance efforts to monitor and assess environmental crime through
113 mobilizing funds, hiring experts, analyzing data, and, designing and delivering technical
114 assistance;
115
- 116 b. Further utilize the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) of the UNODC as a
117 way to efficiently track corrupted practices and engage academia, private sector; and civil society;
118
- 119 c. Encourage the participation of voluntary Member States in creating National Environmental Security
120 Task Forces (NESTs) to further strengthen enforcement mechanisms;
121
- 122 3. *Suggests* the adoption of governmental policies by Member States to foster stronger border and port
123 management in an effort to promote the documentation of exported and imported lumber for improving the
124 capacity for Member States to halt the trade of illegal logging products;
125
- 126 4. *Further invites* CIFOR to expand its Assessment for SFM Indicators & Research to evaluate the level of SFM
127 practices of timber companies in order to raise awareness to timber consumers of sustainably conscious
128 companies who apply SFM practices to their business operations;
129
- 130 5. *Calls* for the expansion of the duties of the Human Rights Council (HRC)'s Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
131 for the purpose of enabling the collection of economic data on the imports and exports of lumber as well as
132 other agricultural goods of Member States in order to:
133
- 134 a. Utilize existing actors under the UPR to develop solutions for Member States to better reach their
135 forestry goals;
136
- 137 b. Coordinate national efforts striving to assist their respective member States in achieving their goals for
138 a sustainable environment along with NGOs recommended by the findings of the UPR;
139
- 140 6. *Requests* its Sub-Regional Offices to establish commissions to work with the national institutions of Member
141 States wishing to voluntarily review, evaluate, and collaborate with them on the state of their land in order to
142 achieve the SDGs, for the purpose of:
143
- 144 a. Increasing global understanding of how climate change affects the productive capacity, the
145 topography, and the overall health of the forests within LDCs and SIDS;
146
- 147 b. Using the Global Forest Watch (GFW) Platform launched by the World Resources Institute (WRI) to
148 monitor the status of forest landscapes so Member States are better equipped to assist and empower
149 local communities in the management of their land to help them conserve and mitigate the amount of
150 carbon emissions, as well as the rate of deforestation and degradation;
151
- 152 c. Coordinating solutions from the above evaluations in order to recommend Member States to stop
153 adverse climate action resulting from irresponsible human activity, and if necessary:
154
- 155 i. Establish state-protected conservation areas;
156 ii. Implement strategic regrowth planting activities to promote sustainable fertile land practices;
157 iii. Create a detailed, culturally sensitive path forward, which guides national governments and
158 local communities on ways in which threatened forests can be salvaged or transitioned in
159 ways that lessen their negative effects on climate change;
160

- 161 7. *Calls upon* worldwide NGOs that aim to combat deforestation, forest degradation and climate change to
162 promote the active participation of individuals, private sector entities and Member States, in order to raise
163 awareness of the importance of improving sustainable forest management by:
164
- 165 a. Ensuring that the Alliance between CARE and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), whose global
166 networks enhance the relationship between sustainable development and climate change, is utilized
167 and strengthened to combat climate change by reducing forest loss and emissions from deforestation to
168 prevent catastrophic climatic effects;
 - 169 b. Encouraging the implementation of eco-tourism programs to reduce the consequences of deforestation
170 on human and vegetation health as well as provide local communities with increased economic
171 activity;
 - 172 c. Supporting already existing forest sponsoring programs that promote efforts of SFM such as the
173 Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Pacific
174 Environmental Outlook;
- 175
176
177
- 178 8. *Requests* that the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) extends the multidisciplinary scientific panel for the
179 purpose of monitoring ecosystems and developing plans of sustainable logging by:
180
- 181 a. Accounting for the protection of threatened and endangered flora and fauna based on the International
182 Union for Conservation of Nature Red List;
 - 183 b. Inspiring a climate-conscious effort of mitigation and recognition of global climate change;
- 184
185
- 186 9. *Endorses* the creation and the widespread implementation of log-tracking systems amongst developing nations,
187 with the aid of NGOs, that:
188
- 189 a. Mimics currently successful log tracking programs such as Ghana's Forestry Commission's Wood
190 Tracking System (WTS);
 - 191 b. Encourages private companies who produce forestry products to pass on records of location of harvest
192 and species of lumber and lumber products to all buyers;
 - 193 c. Suggests the World Bank to expand the ability of the International Development Association (IDA) to
194 track wood and forestry products internationally;
 - 195 d. Calls upon Member States, in collaboration with the UNFF, to publish a universal website of records
196 of logging and forestry product exports;
- 197
198
199
200
- 201 10. *Encourages* developed countries to offer support to other Member States who do not have access to advanced
202 technology, on mutually agreed terms for the purpose of sustainable forest management by:
203
- 204 a. Providing the usage of satellite imagery to developing countries through an expansion of the UN-
205 Spider program to address issues of forestry management;
 - 206 b. Recommending the implementation of a reliable system of cloud-based data management expanding
207 upon the UNFF for collaboration between Member States;
- 208
209
- 210 11. *Strongly suggests* that Member States utilize technologies that can be applied to the REDD+ framework, such as
211 the Geographic Information System (GIS), to effectively monitor deforestation within their regions;
212
- 213 12. *Calls for* greater carbon emission reduction efforts from developed countries to limit the increase in the global
214 average temperature to above 1.5 ° Celsius by:
215

- 216 a. Increasing research and development in forest or plant-based carbon sinks to reduce carbon emissions
217 in the atmosphere;
218
- 219 b. Increasing investment in technical assistance programs for SIDS to increase their adaptive capacities
220 for climate-related phenomena as it relates to forestry conservation management, carbon sink
221 management, and enforcement mechanisms;
222
- 223 c. Facilitating dialogue among SIDS to stimulate greater understanding with regards to how our
224 collective efforts and collective vulnerability can be utilized to protect cross-border carbon sinks;
225
- 226 13. *Recommends* Member States adopt an incentivized recycling system at local markets and supermarkets, like the
227 German plastic bottle deposit system to:
228
- 229 a. Eliminate unnecessary waste associated with forest-based consumption products like palm oil;
230
- 231 b. Create a refund based bottle recycling program that incentivizes consumers to return products to
232 participating markets;
233
- 234 14. *Encourages* all Member States recognizing overlapping goals and share their work and expertise with the UN
235 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and
236 the UNFF, as organizations that focus on cultural and environmental development, in order to:
237
- 238 a. Initiate information sharing among SIDS that encourage and facilitate regional information sharing
239 forums to address problems specific to their geographic locations;
240
- 241 b. Raise awareness among the population, especially in rural and indigenous communities, on the severe
242 consequences that occur if sustainable practices are not utilized in improving sustainable forest
243 management, affecting the forests through deforestation and degradation, thus altering air and water
244 quality;
245
- 246 c. Engage indigenous communities in the conversation around sustainable forest management with
247 respect to their cultural norms and practices into the broader climate-related discussion, if they are
248 willing;
249
- 250 15. *Calls upon* the Climate Action Network International (CAN-I) to collect and collaborate with the various
251 outcomes of the several regional SFM workshops and networks, such as Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook
252 Study (APFSOS) and Rehabilitation and the Caribbean Workshop on Forest Products Statistics in order to
253 exchange valuable information, expertise and practices aiming to synergize and unite Member States’
254 sustainable forest management progress;
255
- 256 16. *Further recommends* Member States especially those whose economies largely rely on forest resources to
257 engage in working towards developing national green growth policies as a tool to support local sustainable
258 forest management as well as find a balance between economic development and forest protection through:
259
- 260 a. Utilizing non-timber forests products and increasing awareness of these products, their management
261 challenges, and market potential;
262
- 263 b. Encouraging the forest industry to capitalize on value-adding products instead of simple material
264 processing;
265
- 266 17. *Further proclaims* the need for Member States to explore the potential use of their less-fertile agrarian
267 territories into secondary growth protected and sustainable forest areas as a way to:
268
- 269 a. Encourage contingency planning in case of further degradation and deforestation resulting climate
270 from climate change;
271

- 272 b. Mitigate the past and present consequences produced by carbon emissions that are reshaping the
273 topography of the land and conversely affecting the development and economic growth of small
274 developing countries;
275
- 276 18. *Insists* on the further regional and national implementation of the 17 SDGs which focus on the needs of SIDS,
277 especially Goals 11, 13, 15, and 17 from the SDGs by:
278
- 279 a. Cooperating and participating in the readiness mechanism of UN-REDD such as GIS to effectively
280 monitor deforestation within the regions;
281
- 282 b. Facilitating and expediting the use of the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility;
283
- 284 19. *Supports* the expansion of funding designated for reaching the SDGs, achieving these means through:
285
- 286 a. The allocation of funding from the World Bank and regional development banks with interest free
287 loans to developing Member States who require assistance reaching environmental goals by:
288
- 289 i. Focusing monetary support to developing Member States committed to sustainable forest
290 management;
291
- 292 ii. Cooperating between Member States, the GEF and NGOs in order to provide adequate
293 funding proportional to their size, health and usage of their respective forests;
294
- 295 b. Encouraging Member States to invest in developing countries seeking to increase sustainable
296 management act as a means for creating a sustainable future;
- 297 20. *Further commissions* a report that evaluates the outcomes of various regional sustainable forest management
298 workshops and networks such as the APFSOS and the Global Network of National Councils for Sustainable
299 Development and Similar Bodies (GNNCSDS) in order to synthesize unity of collective initiatives and
300 outcomes.



Code: UNEP/1/7

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*

2
3 *Reaffirming* its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme (UNEP)
4 as the leading global environment authority that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental
5 dimension of sustainable development within the UN system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global
6 environment,

7
8 *Recognizing* the importance of education as an upstream solution to raise awareness towards combatting the
9 deforestation problem,

10
11 *Having examined* the success of the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) amongst Least Developed
12 Countries (LDCs) as a means to monitoring rising sea levels, it establishes educational awareness for replantation
13 within native forests and agricultural plantations which prevents further acceleration of coastal erosion within
14 developing island countries,

15
16 *Stressing* the fact that there is a significant inconsistency in the definition of forests across United Nations
17 organizations and treaties, including the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), the
18 *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD), Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
19 (SBSTTA), and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO), and aware of the need for reform,
20 particularly in the case of unrecognized vegetation,

21
22 *Noting with deep concern* the decimation of forestland for agriculture and energy use, resulting in increased soil
23 erosion and uncontrollable forest fires in rural and developed areas,

24
25 *Seeking* monetary support from volunteer Member States to be used towards initiatives for spreading awareness of
26 deforestation amongst rural communities and providing geographically applicable information for Sustainable Forest
27 Management (SFM) education,

28
29 *Fully aware* of the need for cooperation amongst Member States in the form of technology transfer and other
30 cooperative means to halt forest degradation, and to increase forests' productive capacities,

31
32 *Recognizing* that improving current and initiating new sustainable forest management education programs is vital to
33 all Member States and must be addressed for the progress and well-being of all,

34
35 *Bearing in mind* that evaluating climate change and environmental education programs should be measured within
36 the context of inclusive equity, allocation of resources towards sustainable forestry management, consistent
37 participation, and sensitivity to indigenous cultures,

38
39 *Recognizing* the need for economic systems based on reducing environmental risks and depletion of environmental
40 resources through social equity and the improvement of well-being of individual communities,

41
42 *Noting* the influence of civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), members of
43 UNEP's Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, the public and the private sector, and the partnerships between the
44 different bodies of the UN in the process of raising public awareness on the importance of forest ecosystems and
45 biodiversity preservation,

46
47 1. *Requests* all Member States to facilitate a geographically based program, modeled on the NAPA framework, in
48 which vulnerable developing countries can facilitate collaborative programs in response or in prevention of
49 urgent and/or threatening climate change induced by deficiently executed forestry practices, via means of data

- 50 collection and circulation of emergency protocol education;
- 51
- 52 2. *Recognizes* the Country Programming Framework (CPF) set forth by the FAO as pivotal in providing Member
- 53 States with policy prescriptions, particularly in regards to good environmental governance and SFM, that align
- 54 with national priorities and are respectful to state sovereignty and indigenous cultures;
- 55
- 56 3. *Emphasizes* the importance of educating populations on the value and necessity of protecting the environment,
- 57 especially forests, and the imperativeness of reforestation efforts, as well as SFM, in order to ensure that
- 58 sustainable resources are available to future generations and ensure the renewal of essential natural assets
- 59 through:
- 60
- 61 a. Nature education programs within schools and local communities which encourage the general
- 62 population to become involved with and invested in the environment through interactions with nature
- 63 in the region where;
- 64
- 65 b. Youth environmental exchange, educational and awareness programs, such as the pre-existing Forest
- 66 School Trainings, which informs youth of their Member States forests, being elementary, middle and
- 67 high school students, as well as students of higher education in the context of extra-curricular activities
- 68 or programs linked to forestry studies' diverse environment, which will:
- 69
- 70 i. Have the youth visit forests to learn personal, social and technical skills;
- 71 ii. Educate youth on their Member States diverse ecosystem and the role they play in sustaining
- 72 it;
- 73 iii. Train youth to use SFM and deforestation prevention strategies through education in school
- 74 curriculum and youth outreach programs;
- 75 iv. Inform students of the relationship between humans and the environment via international
- 76 environments and educational venues;
- 77 v. Demonstrate the potential deadly impacts of daily activities on the ecosystems of the given
- 78 Member States and show them how they can contribute to the prevention and reduction of the
- 79 aforementioned impacts;
- 80 vi. Implement activities to encourage students to apply the knowledge they have accumulated
- 81 and to come up with creative and innovative approaches to solve environmental issues;
- 82
- 83 c. Encouraging Member States to educate their people on sustainable, consistent, foresting practices
- 84 through the implementation of workshops that:
- 85
- 86 i. Will be organized through UNEP's division of Communication and Public Information
- 87 Regional Office;
- 88 ii. Will address the unstable farming practices that are specifically affecting the world's forests
- 89 and give better alternatives;
- 90 iii. Are encouraged to promote NGOs to educate the poorer regions of their nations;
- 91 iv. Will share information through databases that allows the citizens of Member States to have a
- 92 deeper understanding of their geography, soil distribution, and climate patterns;
- 93
- 94 d. Creation of special educational training sessions in cooperation with the FAO and regional NGOs for
- 95 Low Forested Covered Countries (LFCC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on sustainable
- 96 forest management practices for forest managers and local farmers;
- 97
- 98 4. *Recommends* the use of public-private partnerships modeled after the Action for Rural Development and
- 99 Environment (ADRA) and its collaboration with the Angolan government, in training rural farming families in
- 100 sustainable agricultural practices in order to:
- 101
- 102 a. Implement sustainable agricultural practices such as crop rotations and polyculture farming in an
- 103 attempt to re-fertilize eroded soil and reduce the amount of forests cut down to make room for more
- 104 farmland;
- 105

- 106 b. Bolstering seed banks through the aforementioned sustainable agricultural practices with the goal of
107 reseeding forests previously cut down for farmland or from illegal logging;
108
- 109 5. *Encourages* all Member States spread awareness of the present definition of forests under the UNFCCC to
110 establish a more inclusive representation of presently unrecognized woodland such as coastal mangrove forests,
111 in order to establish a more comprehensive education of the world's biomes;
112
- 113 6. *Encourages* voluntary monetary support by all Member States to assist in the funding of rural community
114 education in developing countries and local communities globally through a coalition with the International
115 Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and their collaboration with REDD+;
116
- 117 7. *Encourages* all Member States share expertise, information, and technology in order to expand the SFM
118 practices and the importance of forests for the achievement of sustainability by:
119
- 120 a. Working in line with the provisions of the UNFCCC technology transfer framework and technology
121 needs as well as the Conference of Parties' Expert Group on Technology Transfer in the exchange of
122 expertise and technology;
123
- 124 b. Increasing the level of communication between UNEP regional offices to ensure the effective transfer
125 of information and technology among Member States;
126
- 127 c. Collaborating with NGOs such as the World Information Transfer in order to dispatch experienced
128 personnel from developed Member States to developing states, in order to work together and provide
129 adequate training, knowledge, and technical experience with regards to preservation and sustainability
130 for forests;
131
- 132 8. *Recommends* for multilateral cooperation among UN bodies, Member States, and NGOs through UN initiatives,
133 such as the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) and the Global Environmental Fund (GEF), to
134 create sustainable agricultural training programs in developing countries affected by deforestation,
135 desertification, and soil erosion, as a way to implement Forestry Trainings for foresters, being those who are
136 involved with forestry practices, the industries involved with the exploitation of forests, and all other activities
137 affecting forests in Member States or regional bodies with pre-existing SFM Practices policies, with the help of:
138
- 139 a. The HESI volunteer teachers from renowned universities, who are experts in their fields, training to
140 local farming leaders in sustainable agricultural techniques will be provided, under the pretence these
141 leaders will disseminate this information among their respective communities in an effort to implement
142 long term SFM techniques;
143
- 144 b. Collaboration between UNEP and the GEF that would implement the Great Green Wall Initiative into
145 agroforestry projects with the Sahel region of Africa to train local farmers on how to apply
146 agroforestry into their farming techniques;
147
- 148 c. Agroforestry which will help farmers be able to continue farming while increasing the arability of the
149 land thus helping augment food security within the region;
150
- 151 d. Highlighting the importance of enhanced training for local farmers from the aforementioned volunteer
152 teachers as pivotal in promoting SFM;
153
- 154 9. *Further encourages* local communities to take part in the forest management and in the forest industry by:
155
- 156 a. Going through adequate SFM Forestry Training;
157
- 158 b. Contributing to the aforementioned Forestry Trainings and considering specific local conditions which
159 would be incorporated in the trainings, as well as incorporate these specificities within the national or
160 regional SFM policies;
161

- 162 c. Having the proper resources to develop their own businesses in the forestry industry;
163
- 164 10. *Encourages* all Member States to establish national programs to promote and increase awareness about
165 paperless consumption and overconsumption of forest resources via tax incentives, such as tax credits for
166 merchants, promoting reusable bags and packaging by organizing nationwide media campaigns through social
167 media and any other appropriate means in order to address corporations, manufacturers and consumers
168 promoting eco-friendly practices to influence production and consumption behaviours;
169
- 170 11. *Urges* Member States to take practical steps towards ensuring the growth and transformation of economies to
171 preserve and protect forests by:
172
- 173 a. Establishing economic activities that promote the protection of forests while being profitable for
174 forestry industries as a way to involve communities in the process of forest conservation and
175 preservation of forests biodiversity, such as eco-tourism;
176
- 177 b. Endorsing the transition from economies dependent on fossil fuels to economies driven by renewable,
178 non-polluting energy resources such as wind and solar energy;
179
- 180 c. Encouraging the development of new economic activities based on sustainability, and including them
181 on national development plans and other national economic policies as a way to generate an alternative
182 economic policy in the long term, which seeks to satisfy the inclusive economic development of
183 society;
184
- 185 12. *Invites* UNEP's Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch to work alongside the UN Educational, Scientific and
186 Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in an informative campaign through mass media and social networks in order
187 to promote that citizens from an early age teach them the impact that forest related resources have on the public,
188 in addition to striving to reduce the prevailing level of deforestation and forest degradation by promoting
189 activities aimed at protecting ecosystems and biodiversity of forests such as reforestation;
190
- 191 13. *Encourages* the extension of the Environmental Education and Training Unit developed by UNEP and
192 UNESCO in coalition with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to educate communities on the importance of
193 maintaining sustainable practices such as recycling, green building materials, and renewable energy;
194
- 195 14. *Supports* the recommendations by UNICEF for participatory self-assessment by all Member States, in which all
196 stakeholders in educational programming can agree upon consensus criteria of assessment for individual
197 Member State progress on the implementation of sustainable forest management practices and other educational
198 initiatives.



Code: UNEP/1/8

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*

2
3 *Recalling* Member States in the 1992 Earth Summit taking global action in sustainable development outlining
4 principles and responsibilities in conjunction to the *Johannesburg Declaration of Sustainable Development,*

5
6 *Recalling* Article 4.5 of the *Paris Agreement* from the 2015 Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the *United*
7 *Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) and the *Marrakesh Accords* that increased the
8 proliferation of green technologies and improved relations between Member States,

9
10 *Emphasizing* the importance of international cooperation among Member States and corporations for forest
11 sustainability and preserving biodiversity,

12
13 *Reaffirming* the strides of the world community through the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, particularly in its
14 provision of means for conserving biodiversity,

15
16 *Recognizing* the achievements of the international arrangement on forests since its inception, in particular the
17 adoption by the General Assembly of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests adopted by the
18 Forum, as well as the contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests,

19
20 *Expressing* with appreciation for the UNFCCC in regard to proliferating information and technology that promote
21 sustainable forest management,

22
23 *Conscious* that in order to have an accurate view of the situation of forests and to implement efficient legislation and
24 policies, governments must be able to rely on solid scientific data,

25
26 *Acknowledging* the work of the United Nations (UN) on forestry to promote long-term goals in sustainable practices
27 and preservation of forests for human and economic development,

28
29 *Affirming* the non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management,
30 conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, as adopted by the 1992 UN Conference on
31 Environment and Development, hereafter referred to as the *Statement of Forest Principles*,

32
33 *Reaffirming* the commitment of Member States to achieve UN sustainability goals, specifically pertaining to
34 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) regarding Sustainable Nutrition, Sustainable Management of Water and
35 Sanitation, Sustainable Energy, Responsible Consumption and Production and Climate Action (SDGs 2, 6, 7, 12,
36 and 13),

37
38 *Realizing* the threat to human development and environmental stability caused by deforestation and anthropogenic
39 activities,

40
41 *Noting* with approval the UNFCCC's technology needs assessment, which ensures proper allocation of resources
42 and technologies within the technology transfer framework,

43
44 1. *Invites* Member States to embrace co-operation across regional and sectorial lines in various aspects of
45 environmental protection and forest improvement, following existing mechanisms such as Forest Europe,
46 particularly through, inter alia:

- 47
48 a. Information sharing to allow a diffusion of ideas and methods such as technical approaches or forestry
49 best practices and policies among governments, non-governmental organization (NGOs), civil society
50 organization (CSOs), the public, and indigenous people living in various Member States;

- 51 b. Co-operation in the jurisdiction sector through, inter alia, the adoption of policies and principles across
52 international borders, collaboration of governmental officials with local judicial and environmental
53 experts, increasing transparency among Member States;
54
- 55 c. Consideration of the appointment of national goodwill ambassadors to help generate public awareness,
56 which are in collaboration with others from their regional forest sectors to adopt a holistic approach to
57 balancing environmental, economic, and social functions of forests;
58
- 59 2. *Calls upon* the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to strengthen the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF):
60
- 61 a. By grouping forests based on type, climate and ecosystem-specific needs in order to facilitate
62 collaboration and improve forest management efficacy worldwide;
63
- 64 b. By organizing workshops in order to advise government leaders on every level as well as train public
65 and private-sector actors directly working with the forests;
66
- 67 3. *Supports* the implementation of environmental sciences programs that are adaptable to the changing
68 technologies of the 21st century towards improving the knowledge base with respect to the environmental
69 protection and forest management, through:
70
- 71 a. The utilization of CSOs and NGOs such as the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in
72 order to embrace awareness through the implementation of programs such as Green Key, Eco-Schools,
73 Blue Flag, Learning about Forests, Young Reporters that will educate children from primary school on
74 the importance of forests as a vital resource for humanity and for biodiversity conservation;
75
- 76 b. Government-sponsored organisations to tailor educational efforts to regional conditions to educate
77 local farmers on differentiated agriculture for more sustainable agricultural practices;
78
- 79 c. The social media in its various forms;
80
- 81 4. *Calls upon* the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to unite the international
82 scientific and political communities, as well as emphasizes the link between humans and nature by:
83
- 84 a. Creating avenues for Member States with relevant forest-related experience and developed states to
85 share technical, resource, and educational support to lesser-equipped nations;
86
- 87 b. Encouraging communication between policy makers, governmental leaders, scientists, stakeholders,
88 and local communities in order to empower local and regional governments and the public and private
89 sectors with the management, mitigation and reforestation resources and skills necessary to combat a
90 variety of forest-related issues, as well improving public environmental knowledge;
91
- 92 c. Facilitating communication between local community members, indigenous people, and experts;
93
- 94 d. Encoring Member States to embrace ecotourism as a way to improve environmental consciousness
95 beyond the local level as well as achieving economic advantage;
96
- 97 5. *Further recommends* the adoption of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Food and
98 Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) Forestry and Timber Section, with the purpose of expanding
99 projects to include renewable energy sources, such as biomass, hydroelectricity and wind power, and the
100 operation of green economies in providing alternatives to forest resources;
101
- 102 6. *Suggests* that upon receiving funds for a forest-related program, Member States should receive technical support
103 and training through workshops as needed in order to ensure that funds are allocated properly and are
104 effectively used;
105

- 106 7. *Invites* Member States to ensure more effective data collection and transparency through aligned monitoring
107 with the Global Forest Watch working alongside with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), while
108 ensuring that the sovereignty of each Member State is respected at all times;
109
- 110 8. *Recommends* the creation of the Forest Condition Data Base (FCDB):
111
112 a. The objective is to provide information regarding monitoring forests in each country:
113
114 i. The data base will be managed by the UN Collaborative Programme Reducing Emissions
115 from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) with the
116 cooperation of this Committee;
117 ii. REDD would submit a report biannually concerning the results, which will then be
118 redistributed to Member States;
119
120 b. The report will evaluate the efficiency and progress of the framework that is implementing in each
121 country by projecting the improvement of sustainable forest management practices;
122
- 123 9. *Encourages* Member States to support the outcomes of the COP21, known as the *Paris Agreement*, as a step to
124 achieve the targets set in the new, universal climate agreement at COP21 convened in Paris in 2015, which
125 recognizes the importance of the implementation of national policy and international approaches, as well as
126 create positive circulation in forest management by:
127
128 a. Creating incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of
129 conservation, sustainable management of forest as:
130
131 i. Promotion of Promote the UNEP efforts of Champions of the Earth, and;
132 ii. Considering the addition of a branch for forestry at the local level through the recognition of
133 individuals and organizations;
134
135 b. Recommending Member States to implement Payment for Environmental Services (PES) in their
136 countries as an incentive to encourage reforestation and fight deforestation;
137
138 c. Urging all Member States to apply the *Paris Agreement* immediately to their national development
139 agenda and start acting against those changes already occurring without waiting the entry in force of
140 the agreement in 2020;
141
- 142 10. *Calls upon* all Member States to utilize the UNFCCC technology transfer framework:
143
144 a. UNFCCC's technology transfer framework provides a secure basis of technology sharing between
145 Member States;
146
147 b. Member States receive specific technologies and information relevant to their needs;
148
149 c. Member States participate in capacity building which seeks to build, develop, strengthen, enhance and
150 improve existing scientific and technical skills;
151
- 152 11. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement the 2014-2017 UNEP medium term strategy in their
153 national action plan to promote effective and efficient reforestation through collaboration, reduction, and
154 protection, including inter alia;
155
156 a. The collaboration between Member States as well as both private and public sectors through:
157
158 i. Increased communication between all parties towards developing better networking that is
159 essential to the process of reforestation;

- 160 ii. Sharing of information and capabilities as much as possible to bring about cohesive and all
161 inclusive development;
162
- 163 b. Mitigating the adverse consequences of climate change, thus:
164
- 165 i. Member States should recognize that existing forests should not incur further damage and
166 therefore should promote reduction of logging and unauthorized felling of trees;
167 ii. Member States should endeavor to eliminate the use of illegal timber;
168 iii. Encourage the creation of Phase-Out Strategies to reduce the exploitation of natural resources;
169
- 170 c. Implementing the outcomes of the multistage holder platform of the Agri-food Task force (ATF) on
171 Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and foster a more resource efficient production and
172 consumption patterns in the agri-food sector through regional projects;
173
- 174 12. *Encourages* Member States to preserve pre-existing land through the designation of specially protected natural
175 areas existing within national borders, also:
176
- 177 a. Sustains ecological equilibrium through the protection of flora, fauna, and other aspects of
178 biodiversity;
179
- 180 b. Encourages increased awareness of historical and cultural importance among native inhabitants;
181
- 182 c. Suggests the increase of sustainable biomass through the implementation of a long-term plan;
183
- 184 d. Calls upon the research of organizations and NGOs such as the Forest Stewards Guild and the
185 Committee of the Friends of the Cedar Forest to inspire national and regional advancements towards
186 sustainable biomass;
187
- 188 13. *Encourages* all Member States to undertake projects pertaining to SDGs 2, 6, 7, 12, and 13 in order to mitigate
189 the effects of desertification with agroforestry technology and land management, including:
190
- 191 a. The planting of water retaining flora on arid land to reduce soil erosion;
192
- 193 b. The composting of organic byproducts for soil rehabilitation;
194
- 195 14. *Calls upon* Member States to invest more on results based carbon payments programmes such as REDD+, in
196 order to address the issue of climate change;
197
- 198 15. *Encourages* Member States to enact Phase-Out Strategies based on preventive measures aimed at sustainable
199 consumption of ozone depleting substances;
200
- 201 16. *Recommends* that Members States take care of the value of biodiversity in their national legislation, particularly
202 in regards to reforestation in relation to logging activity;
203
- 204 17. *Encourages* Member States to contribute at a level representative of their national economy to the funding of
205 the Forest Investment Programme and to create national funds, such as the International Climate Fund as their
206 political & economic condition allows.