

Tour Report of Shri Subhash Chandra, for attending the First Facilitative Workshop organized by UNFF on 22nd -23rd October, 2013

1. Background:

- i. 1st Facilitative Dialogue Workshop on the International Arrangement on Forests was organized from 22-23 October 2013 at Vienna, Austria. According to the multi-year programme adopted in 2007, the overall theme of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) in 2015 will be **“Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests”**. At this session, the Forum will convene a high-level segment to review the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests (IAF). **In preparation for the review of the IAF at UNFF11 in 2015, the Forum has made several decisions during the last fourteen years.**
- ii. As a part of intersessional activities leading up to UNFF11, Member States through Resolution 2 of UNFF10 decided to undertake several activities to ensure UNFF11 has a basis to review the effectiveness of the IAF and make a decision on the future IAF. The main intersessional activities on the IAF include (1) soliciting views from Member States and other relevant stakeholders, (2) an independent assessment of the IAF, and (3) holding a maximum of two meetings of the ad hoc expert group to review (1), (2) and other relevant inputs, and to discuss the issues and submit its recommendations on the IAF to UNFF11. The views of Member States and other stakeholders on the IAF were simultaneously being solicited in July 2013. These views will be later compiled for consideration by the first meeting of the ad hoc expert group (AHEG1) on the IAF, in accordance with UNFF10 Resolution 2.
- iii. Key components of the current IAF include the UNFF, with its 197 Member States and its secretariat; the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which is a voluntary partnership of 14 international bodies that can support implementation, for example through research, financing and technical information; Major Groups; and regional processes. A major achievement of the current IAF was the adoption, by the UN General Assembly in 2007, of a “non-legally binding instrument on all types of forest” (or Forest Instrument for short) and four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs). Since it was established by ECOSOC in 2000, the IAF has also developed a common understanding of what sustainable forest management (SFM) means; it has forged some good collaborative partnerships; it has helped build capacity for national reporting; it has undertaken analytical work and raised the profile of forests in the outcomes of major UN Summits, for example at WSSD, UNCSD and most recently on the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); it raised the awareness on multiple benefits of forests through the International Year of Forests in 2011 and the International Day of Forests, and it promoted knowledge and better understanding on critical forest-related issues, such as financing, through carrying out analytical studies and by organizing global and regional expert group meetings and workshops on these issues.
- iv. Over the past seven years UNFF has followed a relatively rigid multi-year programme of work (MYPOW), which has restricted its ability to react fully to some important emerging issues, such as climate change, forest governance, trade, investment and the valuation of ecosystem services. Many of these policy issues have been developed outside UNFF, which has not exercised its perceived convening power well enough to minimize fragmentation of the global forest agenda. This fragmentation can also be

attributed to inadequate coordination within the governments of Member States on forest-related matters.

- v. The terms of reference (ToR) for an independent assessment of the IAF have also been finalized by the UNFF11 Bureau. Following the selection of relevant consultants, this work is expected to begin before the end of September 2013.

2. Outcome of the First Facilitative Workshop on IAF-October 22-23, 2013

- i. The UNFF Facilitative Dialogue Workshop on the IAF was held in Vienna, Austria on 22-23 October 2013. The meeting facilitated a knowledge-based discussion on the future of multilateral policies and institutions related to forests, and the ongoing inter-sessional activities in preparation for the eleventh session of the UNFF (UNFF11). Over 100 participants from fifty countries, international and regional organizations, major groups participated in the discussion.
- ii. The Chair of Bureau of UNFF11 welcomed the participants. The Director UNFF gave a brief presentation highlighting the various components of International Arrangement on Forests and the achievements of UNFF and urged participants to give suggestions for effective consultative process. The Chair and Vice Chairs of the UNFF11 Bureau conducted the discussions in the plenary and breakout groups' sessions. They introduced the Facilitators and Co-facilitators and consultants for Independent Assessment of IAF
- iii. Consultant Team Members
 - 1. Dr Jürgen Blaser (Switzerland)
 - 2. Dr. Jorge Illueca (Panama)
 - 3. Mr. Mafa E. Chipeta (Malawi)
 - 4. Dr Maxim Lobovikov, (Russian Federation)
 - 5. Ricardo M. Umali (Philippines)
- iv. Members of the Bureau of UNFF11, UNFF Secretariat, Co-facilitators and Consultants for the independent assessment of the IAF briefed participants on key activities and timelines related to the IAF intersessional activities, and the upcoming meeting of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG/SDG) on Forests in February 2014 in New York.
- v. At the end of the workshop, the Vice-Chair of the Bureau read an oral summary of the discussions during the workshop. All participants emphasized the significance of active involvement of all countries in the upcoming meeting of the OWG/SDG in February 2014, as well as the intersessional activities on the IAF.
- vi. Participants highlighted the significance of the upcoming UNFF11 in May 2015 in reviewing the effectiveness of the IAF, and in deciding on its future. In their discussions, participants also stressed that the UNFF11 decision on the future of the IAF should increase political commitment for sustainable forest management and support countries in implementing the forest instrument, forest policies, and strengthening the UNFF network of focal points. In particular, the need for capacity-building, financing and increased awareness on the multiple benefits of forests was highlighted. It was also

suggested that indicators should be developed to highlight the contributions of forests to the internationally agreed development goals.

3. Technical Meeting on reporting to UNFF:

- i. The technical meeting on reporting to UNFF took place on 22nd October at 6.15pm after the official session at the Vienna International Center (VIC). At UNFF10, in the Resolution of WG1, countries requested the UNFF secretariat to: “ *Further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations and through criteria and indicators and other regional processes and balanced regional workshops depending on available resources*”
- ii. It was agreed that the Data submitted by countries to UNFF11 is important in setting the path forward for the international arrangement on forests, including the forest instrument and its four Global Objectives on Forests. The national reports provide further evidence of the added value and significant contributions of forests and sustainable forest management to poverty eradication, sustainability and broader international development goals. The desired information:
 - will provide basis for measuring progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument and the **final assessment of the four global objectives on forests**;
 - prepare member states for the assessment of the international arrangement on forests;
 - help to assess the contribution of forests to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
 - provide solid evidence base for economic, social and environmental contribution from forest into sustainable development.
- iii. **Lessons learned from the reporting cycle to UNFF10:** Countries provided valuable information on how they have implemented policies and measures from the forest instrument, and to which extent. The total number (57) of national reports received for the tenth session of the Forum is more than triple that of the previous two sessions. Close cooperation and data sharing between UNFF secretariat and FAO allowed reducing the reporting burden and to make more effective use of the existing databases on forests. The areas with limited indicators and/or where data is weak or not existing include:
 - Degradation of forests (GOF1)
 - Contribution of forests to food security/livelihoods (GOF2)
 - Economic value of environmental services (GOF2)
 - Non-wood forest products
 - Forest related ODA figures (GOF4)
 - Contribution of SFM and forests to MDGs
- iv. **Discussion and actions on Reporting to UNFF11**

22nd September, Vienna (after the plenary session): Informal meeting with participants from countries which submitted national reports to UNFF10 and registered to the workshop in Vienna. This meeting offered an opportunity for experience sharing, exchange ideas, comments on missing data and possible problems with the reporting

template used for UNFF10; It also served as starting point in the preparatory process for the reporting to UNFF11.

v. Main comments during the meeting: Around 20 Experts participated in the meeting.

-Include a brief introduction on the progress of sustainable forest management in Part I (on a voluntary basis) to demonstrate the general situation of the country forest management, related policies, priorities, opportunities and challenges in the implementation of the Forest Instrument;

-Add section with terms and definitions;

-Address the issue of forest degradation (under GOF1);

-Avoid duplication of work and ensure consistency of data with other reports (national e.g national report on MDGs and international and SOFO, Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015) to reduce reporting burden;

-Consider synchronising reporting to UNFF with FAO/FRA (at least the bio-physical data)

-Address, more visibly, contributions of SFM to poverty reduction (e.g. address seasonal and green job opportunities, forest tourism, non-wood forest products);

-Consider defining a set of core indicators, with special emphasis on the four Global Objectives on Forests to assess more accurately the progress toward compliance;

-Consider adopting a standard format for reporting to UNFF;

-Determine to what extent national reports can be used to guide the work of the Forum and identify areas of greatest and slowest progress, propose specific actions to address challenges in the areas lagging behind;

-Try to identify/develop set of indicators linking forests with MDGs, specially on food security and poverty reduction;

-Address capacity building issues: many countries do not have the essential know-how to report in the comprehensive manner – if resources allow: organise a global workshop or set of regional workshops on reporting prior to UNFF-11;

-Continue this format of meetings - take advantage of the next UNFF workshops, possibly AHEG(s) to convene similar discussions on reporting

vi. Key issues discussed for the upcoming reporting cycle;

- Synchronize timing/availability of data for 2015, particularly with FAO/Forest Resources Assessment 2015; (UNFF11 will take place in May 2015, the main report of FAO/FRA 2015 report will be released in September 2015)
- Address the existing information gaps in order to convene the final assessment of Global Objectives on Forests

- Explore alternative ways of gathering information and attempt to compile socio-economic data from other UN agencies, international organizations/data providers
- Closer cooperation with other CPF members, with the aim to synchronize reporting cycles, data sharing, connect focal points of UNFF, FAO, Rio Conventions and to further streamline and reduce reporting burden,
- The outcome of the meeting includes feedback (on timing, data availability, format) on the reporting process in UNFF10 and preliminary suggestions for improvements in the upcoming reporting cycle.
- It was informed that in January 2014, a small technical meeting with 10 -15 participants with expert mainly from CPF organizations will be held in New York. This meeting will clarify which data will be available from which agency, and how can it be utilized/ streamlined into the reporting process to UNFF; key FAO/FRA findings, SOFO, ITTO, CBD reports; The expected outcome will be the first draft of the template/clarification of which data could be derived from international data providers;
- Online consultation with member states and CPF members
- Finalization of the reporting template by the UNFF Secretariat
- June 2014: dissemination of the template – deadline for submission of national reports September 2014.

4. Outcome of the Facilitative Workshop:

The workshop helped in better understanding and knowledge of Member States and other stakeholders on the main task of UNFF11 in regard to the IAF, the scope and components of the IAF, the previous decisions of the Forum, and the key intersessional activities on this issue, leading up to UNFF11. The offered participants the space and opportunity to exchange views on the above-mentioned issues, with each other, with the members of the UNFF11.

The participants particularly the National Focal Points discussed the format for Country report and improvement required to be made for better understanding and filling of required information.

The participants were informed about future intersessional activities of UNFF for better preparation for next Session.

Brief Background of Consultants tasked to carry out Independent assessment of International Arrangement on Forests (IAF):

Dr Jürgen Blaser (Switzerland) is Professor for International Forestry and Climate Change at the School for Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences of the Bern University of Applied Sciences (since August 2011), and also acts as the Global Advisor on Forests to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Between 2002 and 2011 he was the head of the Forest and Environment Team and Vice-Director of Swiss Intercooperation. From 1996 to 2001 he was Senior Forestry Advisor at the World Bank.

Dr. Jorge Illueca (Panama) received his Ph.D. in History with a specialization in Environmental History of the Neotropics from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1983. From 1972 to 1980, he was Assistant Professor in the Mexican-American Studies and Latin American Studies Departments at California State University, Los Angeles, serving as Department Chairman from 1973-1974. From 1983 to 1989 he was the Executive Secretary of the National Commission on the Environment of the Republic of Panama. During this period he was also appointed Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary Ambassador of the Republic of Panama to various global and regional environmental meetings. He was elected President of the Governing Council of UNEP for the 1986-1987 period. From 1989 to 1992 he served as the Coordinator of Environmental Management of UNEP. In 1993 he was a Research Affiliate and Guggenheim Fellow at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI). From 1995 to 2002 he served as Assistant Executive Director of UNEP in charge of the Division of the Environment Programme (1995- 1998) and the Division of Environmental Conventions (1998-2002). In 2002, he was seconded by UNEP to the UNFF Secretariat to help facilitate the negotiations of a legally-binding/non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. He is currently the President of Latin American Consultants for Sustainable Development and Environmental Management (LAGA).

Mr. Mafa E. Chipeta (Malawi) holds forestry B. Sc Hons and M. Sc degrees with specialisations in forest products and industry planning from the University of Wales in Britain. On retirement in 2010, Mafa Chipeta was serving as FAO Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and FAO Representative to Ethiopia, the African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Earlier he had served in FAO Rome Headquarters as Director of Policy Assistance for all aspects of agriculture and food security, co-ordinating 9 policy offices worldwide; was first FAO Focal Point for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) for which he synthesised the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) later adopted by the African Union. Before that he was FAO Representative in Uganda, FAO Senior Forestry Officer and acting head of planning and statistics, UN system forestry focal point for follow-up to the Rio Earth Summit, after service as a professional forester and forest industries expert in FAO, junior expert in UNECA (Addis Ababa), Malawi government and the private sector. During 1999 – 2001, Chipeta was Deputy Director-General of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Indonesia. Since retirement, Mafa Chipeta has done a wide range of consultancy or pro-bono assignments. Most assignments have been on agriculture and food security at both regional and country level. Global clients or partners have included FAO, IUCN, Instituto Lula of Brazil and Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry. Regional clients or partners have included African Union, UNECA, SADC, Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), African Forestry Forum. Country work has included Ethiopia, Malawi and South Sudan, while analysis has covered more.

Dr Maxim Lobovikov, citizen of the Russian Federation, Master in Science (MSc) in Economics on Forestry and Forest Industry (with honor), PhD in Economics (1985), Docent (1989) at the Saint-Petersburg Forestry Academy (Russia). Post-Doctoral study and research work at the University of California at Berkeley (USA) and University of Helsinki (Finland). He has Master of Business Administration degree (MBA) from the Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey (USA, 2006). He has over 40 years of work experience in research, education, project, business, administration and consulting work on forest economics, management, policy, environment and development in Russia, Europe, North and South America, Asia and Africa. Author of over 70 scientific publications and books. Over 20 years of international experience at the University of California at Berkeley (USA), University of Helsinki, Finnish Forest Research Institute (METLA), European Forest Institute - EFI (Finland). Director of Economic Program at the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (Beijing, China), Director of the International Commodity Body (ICB) at the Common Fund for Commodities (Amsterdam, Netherlands), Senior management at the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (Rome, Italy). Coordinated the Russian Forest Sector Outlook Study to 2030. An editor and author of "World Forests, Society and Environment" book series. Expert of international level on forest sector economics, management, administration and policy.

Ricardo M. Umali (Philippines) has extensive international and national experiences for 39 years in the private, government, and academic sectors on forestry, natural resources, and environmental management, climate change, and related fields. For the last 18 years, he has been the President and CEO of Sustainable Ecosystems International Corp. and managed about 90 development projects in Asia/Pacific. He is Board Director of PICOP Resources Inc. and Geodata System Technologies Inc. He served as International Team Leader / Consultant / Project Manager to 49 environment, natural resources and related projects funded by multilateral and bilateral organizations like the WB, UN, ADB, ITTO, FAO, UNDP, ESCAP, CIDA, FINNIDA, East-West Center and others in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Rome, Hawaii, New York, Japan, Brazil, and some parts of Africa. He was a former Assistant Secretary, Undersecretary, Acting Secretary, and Director-General (Natural Resources Management Center) of the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). He has represented the Philippines in various international meetings, conventions and conferences organized by UN and other international agencies. He obtained a degree in forestry from the University of the Philippines College of Forestry and Renewable Natural Resources and graduated with a Master's degree, university fellow, from the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in 1974.

**First Facilitative Dialogue Workshop
on the Review of the International Arrangement on Forests**
Provisional organization of work

22-23 October 2013
Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria

Tuesday 22 October 2013		Wednesday 23 October 2013	
	<i>Building C- Room BR-D</i>	<i>Building C- Room BR-D</i>	<i>Building C- Room C3</i>
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Speech by Ambassador Kamau, Chair of UNFF11 Bureau on the significance of the IAF review process Presentation by Ms Jan McAlpine, UNFF Director on the IAF review process and its intersessional activities Introduction of the co-facilitators and consultants of the independent assessment of the IAF Presentation by the co-facilitators on their work Q&A session on the IAF intersessional activities	Breakout Group 1: Elevating forests in the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda processes	Breakout Group 2: Elevating forests in the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda processes
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Lunch break		Lunch break
	<i>Building C- Room BR-D</i>	<i>Building C- Room BR-D</i>	
	Breakout Group 1:	Breakout Group 2:	
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm	<i>Topic:</i> Key actions to be taken to catalyze regional substantive discussions on the IAF in advance of UNFF11	<i>Topic:</i> Key actions to be taken to catalyze national substantive discussions on the IAF in advance of UNFF11	
	Oral summary of the discussions of the workshop by the Vice Chair of the UNFF11 Bureau Closure of the workshop		