

UN FORUM ON FORESTS / AD-HOC EXPERT GROUP ON STRATEGIC PLAN AND WORK PROGRAM

UNHQ 25-27 April, 2016

DRAFT STATEMENT

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Markku Aho on behalf of IFFA

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the important work ahead of us all to develop a strategic plan and a work programme for the UN forest process.

The outcome of the 11th Session of the UNFF is much appreciated for launching this process, including the fact that it takes on board the UNGA 67/290 resolution on participation of major groups and other stakeholders, *mutatis mutandis*, enabling them to, inter alia, submit documents and present contributions as well as to make recommendations and organize events and round tables in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman,

The description of the *private sector* in the UNFF documentation, as well as in the draft strategic plan under review, should benefit of some precision and revision. As it now reads, it is quite unbalanced as it does not specifically recognize the widest segment of the *private sector* in the agriculture and forest sector, namely the small and medium size forest and farm producers and their organizations.

One critical observation on the draft strategic plan is that it does not adequately recognize the role of major groups as active participants in the UNFF process. Consequently, the draft lacks concrete and measurable targets and indicators that would enable a time-bound assessment of progress and achievements, including the extent to

As conditions vary a lot between continents/ regions and countries, verification of actions should be done at the regional level and for countries before policy conclusions could meaningfully be arrived at. Major group stakeholders, in particular forest and farm producers and communities, could identify their own targets and indicators and make submissions at the UNFF AHEG in order to have them taken into account in the forthcoming continued preparatory work for the strategic plan and 4-year work programme.

Tentatively, and depending on what kind of targets finally will be included in the strategic plan, some possible targets/indicators pertinent to forest and farm producers' contribution towards SFM and the Sustainable Development Goals are outlined for further consideration at this AHEG and forthcoming meetings.