

**Monday, 24 February 2014**

**AHEG Co-Chairs**

**Opening Session of AHEG1 - 24 February 2014**

Ambassador Kamau, Chair of the UNFF11 Bureau,

Let us now remind ourselves of the key intersessional activities of the review of the international arrangement on forests (IAF). The first component is to solicit views from countries and other relevant stakeholders on the IAF. In this regard, in June 2013, countries, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, its member organizations, other relevant organizations, relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders were invited to submit views and proposals on the IAF to the secretariat. In total, 46 responses were received which have been made available online, as individual responses, and as a compilation document. This compilation is included in the CD which has been distributed to all participants.

The second component is to carry out an independent assessment of the

The discussions and outcome of this first meeting of AHEG will inform the continuing work on the independent assessment and serve as a basis for

Thursday morning is devoted entirely to the plenary session. During this session, two eminent keynote speakers will address the plenary on the way forward for the future of the IAF, as well as its interconnection with the SDGs and post-2015 UN development agenda. You will have the opportunity to interact with the speakers and exchange views, after they make their speeches. There will be no formal plenary or working group meetings on Thursday afternoon. This time is entirely devoted for the meetings of members of the Independent Assessment Team with their respective regional groups. We will inform you later of the exact rooms for these meetings.

As indicated earlier, the report of the AHEG contains only a co-summary of the substantive discussions during the week. There will be no negotiated outcome. We will try our best to provide you with the draft co-substantive discussion is over. At the end of the Thursday morning session, we will inform you of the arrangement for distribution of the co-

In any case, hard copies of the co-room on Friday morning at 9 am. The plenary will begin at 10 am to receive any factual correction to the co-

In the afternoon, the participants will take note of the co-of the discussions and adopt the report.

So, we hope you are fine with these arrangements for our work during this week. Of course, we may need to adjust the work programme depending on needs.

We see no questions, so the provisional organization of the work of the AHEG1 is adopted.