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The Secretariat of United Nations Forum on Forests, on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, wishes to submit the following brief reference document for the information of the relevant stakeholders in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the Ad hoc working group on the Long term Cooperative Action. This submission is in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Bali Action Plan. The purpose of the document is to provide practical background information on already agreed specific language at the multilateral level regarding sustainable forest management.

Yours sincerely,



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## **Sustainable Forest Management at the multilateral level**

*Submission from the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)  
to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*

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The concept of sustainable forest management (SFM) has been addressed at the multilateral level This brief document provides already agreed specific language on SFM<sup>1</sup>.

### **United Nations General Assembly**

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted in December 2007 resolution 62/98 on Non-Legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument). This instrument represents for the first time the most widely intergovernmentally agreed language on SFM. The text of the forest instrument is included as annex to the resolution. The operative paragraph 4 of the Annex states:

“Sustainable forest management as a dynamic and evolving concept aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental value of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations.”

Paragraph 6 further specifies: “To achieve the purpose of the present instrument and taking into account national policies, priorities, conditions and available resources, Member States should:

(a) Develop, implement, publish and, as necessary, update national forest programmes and other strategies for sustainable forest management which identify actions needed and contain measures, policies or specific goals, taking into account the relevant proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and resolutions of the United Nations on Forests;

(b) Consider the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management which are drawn from the criteria identified by existing criteria and indicator processes, as a reference framework for sustainable forest management.” The footnote to the paragraph then continues:

"<sup>8</sup> The elements are (i) extent of forest resources; (ii) forest biological diversity; (iii) forest health and vitality; (iv) productive functions of forest resources; (v) protective functions of forest resources; (vi) socio-economic functions of forests; and (vii) legal, policy and institutional framework."

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to this globally agreed definition, a number of multilateral, regional and national definitions exist, as well as criteria and indicator processes, which above all aim at operationalizing the concept of SFM. The CPF is working on a submission to UNFCCC that more fully describes SFM and the relationship to climate change.