



**2nd Statement by the children and youth major group presented by IFSA
delegation at UNFF-8, UN Headquarters, Manhattan, New York.**

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Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving us the opportunity to address this forum again.

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The primary objective of youth participation is to promote intergenerational equity in sustainable forest management through education, transfer of knowledge, and securing the right to access natural resources for the younger generations. The indispensable role of youths in terms of effective contribution to the implementation of a sustainable development cannot be overemphasized, and **we appreciate the trust vested in us!**

It is a reality that climate change poses a very serious threat to forests across the globe, and on several millions of people who depend on forests for their basic livelihoods which includes shelter, food and water. Therefore, we anticipate the emphatic stressing of the important roles that forests play in mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and adoption of viable course of actions at the end of UNFF8.

We would like to

- Favour the stance that a message should be sent to the 15th session of the conference of the Parties to UNFCCC on the potential role of forests and sustainable forest management in mitigating and adapting to climate change within the context of the post-2012 Kyoto commitment period, including opportunities for closer cooperation and collaboration between the Forum and UNFCCC.
- We want to emphasize that SFM as a dynamic and evolving concept aims at maintaining and enhancing the economic, social and environmental benefits of all types of forests. Hence, its significant contribution to the mitigation of climate change impacts on forests and related ecosystems, enhancement of the ability of forests to adapt to climate change, and contribution to soil and water conservation cannot be over-emphasized.
- It is very imperative to
 - implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forest;
 - define the actors, and the scale of the portfolio approach for financing;
 - build trust between investors and receivers by mobilizing sufficient resources while at the same time implementing a good monitoring and reporting system.
- Sustainable development means development that does not compromise the options of future generations. It is our responsibility to use and tend the natural resources we have left in away that does not deprive our children of their right to meet their own needs, either now or in the future

The main constraints to investment in, and adequate payments for SFM, are the conditions that prevail in the forest sector, the country and internationally. These include factors related to governance and institutional framework, such as the level of trust, transparency and accountability, the existence of stable laws and policies, and access to and reliability of information. One problem that prevents new sources of financing is the lack of tenure security and/or clarity on land and forests resources. In many cases, there is no legal, political and institutional environment that can provide stability and security in the long term. Hence,

investing in the enabling environment may be as important as the financial mechanisms themselves.

A national forest financing strategy (NFFS) must consider the diversity of stakeholders in forest policy and management, including the different levels (local, national and international) at which forest sector developments occurs. Adopted strategies must be part of established NFP and be integrated in the national development strategy. It must incorporate both the tangible and intangible products of forest. It should also allow for recognition of the diversity in forest types and quality, environmental, socio-economic and politico-institutional conditions, specific forest management objectives and the distinct financing requirements.

As we painstakingly make efforts to chart the course of a better future for global forests, we should bear in mind that future generations lie at a peril of ignorance if we don't pay good attention to proper education. It is our responsibility to equip children and youths with relevant knowledge on how to sustainably manage the wealth of global forests as we pursue the SFM agenda.

We strongly request that reserved funding should be dedicated for youth-led and youth-targeted initiatives which will promote peer-education in forestry-based activities. Students should be provided with opportunities to study and acquire hands-on skills in forest sciences, management, governance and administration. Education is the best legacy that will enable inter-generational advancement in SFM, hence, provision of adequate funding and institutional support for children and youth is not a negotiable option, but a **MUST** for us, as we make our decisions in UNFF8.

Distinguished delegates.

We are presented with such an auspicious opportunity to make our world a better place. Again I reiterate that "A sustainable future for today's children and future generations is in your hands".

Thank you very much.

