



Collaborative Partnership on Forests High level Dialogue (CPF Panel)

**Statement by
Mr. Eduardo Rojas- Briales, CPF Chair**

3 February 2011, New York, USA

Mr. Moderator,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates and guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), I welcome this opportunity to share with you the innovative work of this interagency partnership and to hear your inputs and views on the themes to be discussed in this segment. Consisting of fourteen international organizations, institutions and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests, CPF was established to support the work of UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its member countries, and to enhance cooperation and coordination on forest issues.

Speaking on behalf of the members, I must underline that for all our programmes, the International Year of Forests (Forests 2011) has generated new momentum, creating opportunities, synergies and networks that have shaped the operating environments and priorities of our organizations. The intensified focus on promoting the observance of Forests 2011 is part of a continuing process of advocacy and partnership to foster greater awareness and action towards sustainable forest management at all levels. Our cooperative efforts to build a strong communication group to harmonize joint CPF messages and strategically position forest-related work on the international agenda are priority outcomes of the partnership's work for this year.

Effective support to make Forests 2011 a success requires careful integration and strengthened coordination within the forest sector itself and with other sectors. It also requires the enhancement of CPF members' organizational communication approaches to engage more effectively with global processes, as well as regional, national and local ones, not least through improved networking and knowledge management. We recognize this unity of purpose at a wider level as critical to our delivering on the UN Non legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests, the four Global Objectives on Forests and sustainable forest management at large.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today's dialogue provides CPF members a truly unique opportunity to announce joint and individual activities, on a range of forest issues. With respect to theme 1 of the CPF panel on Forests 2011 activities, it gives me great pleasure to note that our efforts move beyond CPF's traditional constituencies, and allow the generation of a greater awareness on a diverse range of forest actions and solutions for the benefit of people, development and the environment.

The real challenge, however, is to take advantage of Forests 2011 to make the year have a long-lasting effect. In this regard, the forest community may wish to consider establishing an International Day of Forests to ensure that our work during Forests 2011 remains on the global, regional and national agendas for continued public engagement, consciousness and action in support of the future of forests, beyond 2011.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the past two years, CPF members have identified a common set of priorities derived from the resolutions of the UNFF8 and the UNFF9 special session, as well as developments in forest-related arenas such as climate change, biodiversity and land management. Many jointly undertaken activities, including the CPF Forest Days, and initiatives on forest financing, forest degradation, streamlining reporting and landscape restoration, to name a few, have also defined CPF's core work.

The connectivity of the many issues we encounter has required an integrated approach, across different dimensions. Our effort should now focus on further improving cooperation and strengthening the collective impact of our work to reach the ground. Progress in several fields has started to emerge, especially on the issue of forest financing. In this respect, I would like to draw your attention to the constructive paper prepared by the CPF Advisory Group on Finance in 2008, which has become a successful example of the CPF's useful supply of information and expertise. As I understand, many have requested an update to this work and we will have the chance to hear more about this from those members actively involved in its production during our panel discussion on theme 2 related to financing and implementation of the forest instrument.

Ladies and gentlemen:

The swift pace of global changes, including globalization, climate change, and rapid global communications has and will continue to impact and influence the forest community. As we approach the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, we need to strongly advocate topics on forests and how they play a concrete and significant role in sustainable development. It is in this setting that we can effectively raise attention on the links between forests and development, and increase flows of finance for forests and forest livelihoods. It is our responsibility to show the connections between sustainable forest management and green economies, and to demonstrate the potential of investing in forests for green growth, green food, green technologies, a greener landscape and sustainable livelihoods.

Our focus is clear, but more remains to be done to increase coherence and apply synergies that effectively leverage the contribution of forests in the context of sustainable development. The CPF is determined and committed to keep the implementation drive on track, with a clear vision of the role of forests for the development of all societies. Several examples of this will be shared as we address theme 3 of the panel on Forests and Rio+20.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I hope that you have heard in my remarks here today how we are striving to improve coherence within the CPF to support member States, seeking both to boost collaboration and utilize potentially efficient synergies among partners. In this spirit, we are very much looking

forward to this dialogue to stimulate ideas, exchange views and invite strategic support to advance our common concerns and priorities on sustainable forest management.

I thank you all.