

Nomination of Civil Society Representative to the UN-REDD Programme

- 1.) **Name of Candidate:** Julius B. Adewopo
- 2.) **Name of Organization or Network:** International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)
- 3.) **Title :** Liaison Officer (CFA-IFSA Relations)
- 4.) **Country: Candidate: United States / IFSA Secretariat: Germany**
- 5.) **Language(s) Spoken:** English (Fluent), Yoruba (Fluent), Spanish (Beginner)
- 6.) **Primary interests and functions of the organization and community/constituency that the candidates represents and what countries the organization is active in:**

IFSA is the global network for students in forest sciences (and related) disciplines. It unites approximately 3000 students in about 69 member associations (called Local Committees) in over 40 countries (Across all continents). We foster global cooperation among students of forest sciences in order to broaden knowledge and understanding, to achieve a sustainable future for our forests, and to provide a voice for youth in international forest policy processes. Through scientific debates, forums, exchange programs, regional meetings and the annual IFSS (International Forestry Student Symposium), we enrich formal education, promote cultural understanding, and encourage collaboration with international partner organizations, thereby enabling forestry students across the world to gain practical experiences with a wider global perspective on forests and its indispensable role in environmental sustainability.

- 7.) **Brief Description of the organization's experience gathering and representing the diverse viewpoints of a range of communities or organizations, and disseminating and coordinating information and communications among a network of communities or organizations.**

IFSA has been in existence since 1973 and has represented the interest of a diverse global forestry students populace in many international processes. We have an active online forum

(<http://www.ifsa.net/forum/>), mailing groups

(http://www.ifsa.net/showpage_discoverifsa.php?page=mailinglist), Regional and sub-regional

coordination (www.ifsa.net), and the Local Council (LC), which all serve as the main channels of

information dissemination among all members and partners. The greatest asset of IFSA's

communication strategy is the formidable network built through these channels. The Regions and Sub-

regions hold quarterly meetings where students converge to exchange ideas and collaborate on

projects. The International Forestry Students' Symposium (IFSS) is an event organized annually by IFSA

and hosted in different countries and this facilitates a strong connection and communication among forestry students from different countries.

8.) Describe briefly your organization's background and experience with multilateral agency programs, social and environmental issues related to forests, and the role of forests in response to climate change, including REDD.

IFSA has been involved in the process of the United Nations Forest Forum (**UNFF**) since 2005 and has consistently being in charge of the Children and Youth Major **Group (UNFF5, UNFF7 & UNFF8)**. In representation of Forestry Students and Youth, we have had delegates involved in the processes of Convention on Biodiversity (**CBD**), **UNFCCC – COP 13**, and Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forest in Europe (**MCPFE 5**), United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) , and UNESCO (http://www.ifsa.net/international_processes.php) . Our professional partners include **IUFRO, FAO, CFA, IPFE and EFI** and we have always had active participation in on-going dialogues and conferences of these organizations. We already have a designated delegation that will be in charge of a session aimed at discussions on Forestry education at the upcoming World Forestry Congress at Buenos Aires, Argentina.

9.) Describe the financial, technical and/or advisory arrangements your organization has with the UN-REDD Program, as well as the governments of the UN-REDD pilot countries, NGOs, or private sector organizations as they pertain to the UN-REDD process.

We do not currently have any financial arrangement with UN-REDD or with any NGO/private sector organization in relation to UN-REDD process. However, we have financial partners such as STORAENSO, Youth in Action Program of the European Union, and other donors (http://www.ifsa.net/showpage_partnership.php?page=sponsors) which enables us to meet major financial requirements of running our organization while professional partners provides financial support for the involvement of IFSA representatives/delegates in their processes . Invariably our partners from across the globe provides technical and advisory support through training, exchange programs and internship opportunities which enhances the technical and academic expertise of forestry students and equips them with sound knowledge towards the securing of the future of global forest/environment.