



# Interlaken+10 Youth Workshop

## 3-6 February, 2015 | Interlaken, Switzerland

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### **Background**

The Interlaken+10 Youth Workshop was held from February 3-6, 2015, in Interlaken, Switzerland, in parallel to the Interlaken+10 Country Led Initiative (CLI) in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). The Youth Workshop was organized by the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), focal organization of the UNFF Children and Youth Major Group (Focal Points Anna Stemberger and Olivia Sanchez Badini, and IFSA Local Committee at Bern University of Applied Sciences School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) students Markus Pfannkuch, Michael Alder, and Fabian Leu), with the support of HAFL and HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation. The Youth Workshop was possible thanks to the generous financial contributions from the governments of Switzerland and Germany.

This event aimed to provide the opportunity for forestry youth from around the world to develop meaningful and innovative contributions to the UNFF process and future international forest governance and policy regimes. Over the course of the four-day workshop, 25 young people from 16 different countries came together to develop concrete policy proposals relating to youth engagement, forestry education, and priority issues within the context of the UNFF, and to articulate a youth vision for the future of forests and forest governance. The workshop schedule is included in Appendix 1 of this report.

This report provides an overview of the Interlaken+10 Youth Workshop, including details of the workshop sessions and tutorials, as well as the youth learning and capacity development outcomes. It concludes with recommendations for how to continue to build youth engagement in these international policy events and processes.

### **Delegate selection process and pre-workshop preparation**

An open call for applications was promoted through the IFSA website, the IFSA world mailing list, and IFSA social media - platforms with an estimated total collective outreach of over 10,000 individuals. The application requirements included an academic reference, a peer recommendation from a youth organization, and three written short essays. Applications were reviewed by eleven IFSA volunteers from five world regions, using a standardized point scoring system and ensuring the anonymity of the applicants. Furthermore, reviewers did not review applications from their world region. In the final selection round, geographic, gender, and age diversity were also taken into consideration.

A total of 65 applications were submitted, and 18 were selected to be fully-funded to attend the workshop. In addition, eight students from the School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) at Bern University of Applied Sciences joined the youth workshop (see Appendix 2 for a complete list of the delegation).

In the weeks leading up to the workshop, delegates undertook an intensive preparation process. This involved extensive background reading on the UNFF, the IAF and its reviews, and reports from previous CLIs and UNFF meetings. The purpose of these readings was to give delegates a better understanding of the international forest governance structure and processes, and of the context within which they would be developing their policy recommendations. Delegates were also provided with the key policy analysis literature that was to be further explored during the workshop.

## II. DAILY ACTIVITIES

### Day 1

#### *Introduction to the workshop and to the IAF*

The youth workshop commenced with introductory presentations about the workshop's context and the week's objectives by the UNFF Major Group Children and Youth Focal Points, Anna Stemberger and Olivia Sánchez Badini. This included a presentation on the structure and function of the UNFF. In particular, its role as a policy forum rather than an implementation body was highlighted. This presentation enhanced students' understanding of the architectural framework of the IAF, to help frame the forthcoming discussions and development of policy recommendations. The group was also privileged to receive the keynote speech from UNFF Director Manoel Sobral Filho, who reiterated the importance of the upcoming UNFF11 in deciding on the future of the IAF, and expressed his support for the Youth Workshop and MGCY input. The morning also included an inspiring speech by IFSA President May Anne Then.

#### *Ice-breakers and expectations activities*

A portion of the morning was dedicated to getting familiarized with fellow workshop participants through a series of ice-breaker activities. This included an expectations activity, whereby participants, facilitators, and organizers outlined the expectations they had for the workshop and for each other. This resulted in a team “contract” that successfully set the tone of respect, open communication, and collaboration for the rest of the week.

#### *Student presentations by HAFL students on the future IAF*

Following this introductory presentation, the youth delegation was joined by a group of students from HAFL, studying under Dr. Jürgen Blaser, that had recently been through the process of developing distinct proposals for the future IAF beyond 2015. Student Jacob Amoako first introduced the context and process of their assignment, including providing more detailed information on the history, objectives, and achievements of the IAF. Representatives from various student project groups then took turns to present their groups' policy recommendations. These ranged from proposals to establish a single, over-arching Forest Policy and Implementation body, linked to the FAO, to proposals aimed at improving technology, data, and information availability and transfer to achieve SFM objectives. These presentations were particularly useful for the workshop participants, in that they provided an example of the process of identifying and working through policy issues, and of the types of proposals that may be developed.



#### *Policy analysis and formulation crash course*

Delivered by policy student Gabrielle Schittecatte, the policy crash course was a core component of the Youth Workshop. Grounded in policy analysis and advocacy theory, the crash course provided participants with an overview of a value-based approach for formulating policies, and equipped them with skills essential for any type of decision-making process. Activities in subsequent days engaged conference participants in a critical-thinking exercise to purposefully evaluate policy issues in international forest governance, and to propose solutions.





Introductions to the workshop objectives and to the policy crash course. Photo: IISD

### Day 2

#### *Development of the Youth Statements*

Two weeks prior to arriving in Interlaken, youth participants were split into five ‘working groups’, aligned with the following five themes:

1. International Forest Policy and Governance
2. Forestry Education
3. Forest Management and Technology
4. Forests and Climate Change
5. Multiple Uses of Forests

As part of the pre-workshop preparation, participants had also worked together conducting online brainstorming and background research to identify the key current and future issues - particularly those relating to youth engagement and the workings of the UNFF - within each of these thematic areas. Participants also worked to produce preliminary statements outlining expectations and opportunities for addressing these issues within the future international forest policy regime.

On Day 2 of the Youth Workshop, participants broke into their working groups to synthesize the outcomes of their pre-workshop preparation. They then applied the skills and processes learnt during the policy crash course (see Day 1) in order to develop concrete policy proposals. The first task for working groups was to clearly define the key ‘problems’ within their thematic areas. For example, the International Forest Policy and Governance working group identified the inadequate participation in UNFF processes by non-governmental stakeholders, and a failure of the UNFF to address and integrate contemporary and emerging issues into its workings.

Once groups had articulated these over-arching problems, they worked through the process of identifying and reflecting on core values relating to their themes, and to youth engagement. These values informed the development of criteria that could be used to evaluate potential policy solutions. Groups then worked through the process of identifying up to three concrete policy alternatives to address the challenges they had identified, and



Youth delegates brainstorming to in the problem definition phase of the policy analysis. Photo: Olivia Sanchez Badini



Working groups presenting the outcomes of their discussion. Photo: Olivia Sanchez Badini

finally, assessing each of these against their established criteria. In response to the problem outlined above, the International Forest Policy and Governance group proposed a revision of ECOSOC's rules governing Major Group participation in deliberations and decision-making processes, and the establishment of a permanent working group tasked with staying current on emerging forest policy and governance issues. Participants were also encouraged to think broadly and 'outside the box'. One particularly innovative proposal, from the Forestry Education working group, was to establish a 'Forest Impact Lab', a virtual 'global centre of excellence' bringing together

educators, students and policy makers to strengthen collaborative research and development of forestry curricula, communications, and capacity development.

This process, from defining problems to identifying policy solutions, was highly participatory and engaging (e.g. with the use of flip charts for collaborative brainstorming), with groups both providing and receiving feedback on their ideas throughout the day. The final outcome of this day's session was a set of five concise presentation slides outlining the preliminary policy recommendations from each group, to be presented the following morning to a panel of experts for feedback.

### ***Presentation on Forestry Education***

Lena Lackner, Head of IFSA's Forestry Education Commission, presented about the work IFSA has done over the past few years in regards to forestry education, and encouraged participants to keep these ideas and concepts in mind when coming up with policy solutions.

## **Day 3**

### ***Presentations and feedback from expert panel***

During the morning of the third day, the Youth Workshop hosted an 'expert panel' - consisting of Dr. Jürgen Blaser (HAFL), Dr. Hosny El-Lakany (Adjunct Professor, University of British Columbia), Dr. Charles Barber (World Resources Institute), Dr. Eva Müller (Director, Forest Economic Policy and Products Division, FAO) and Stephanie Caswell (Independent Consultant) - in order to obtain feedback on the draft policy recommendations prepared the previous day. One representative from each working group presented their group's set of proposals, with each presentation followed by a short time for questions and feedback from the panel.

Feedback was largely positive, and delegates appreciated clarification from the expert panel on existing processes and projects related to a number of the working proposals. Participants were also encouraged to think carefully about how they could balance the need for being realistic and strategic in their proposals, with the desire from many UNFF member states and organizations to hear new and innovative ideas. This feedback helped working groups to refine and consolidate their proposals in preparation for the CLI plenary the following day.





Expert panel with youth presenters from each working group after presentations and feedback, Photo: Olivia Sanchez Badini

### Field trips

In the afternoon, youth participants had the opportunity to join CLI delegates on any one of three field trips through the region (Murren/Lauterbrunnen, Boltigen, and Emmental). These field trips introduced delegates to topics such as the protective function of forests, various forest tenure and governance systems, forest management financing, and the technical and silvicultural approaches used to manage forests for multiple outcomes. A full summary of these field trips can be found at <http://unff-interlaken10.org/field-trip/>.

These field trips not only gave youth participants an overview of the environmental, social, and economic context of forest management in the region, but also provided them with the opportunity to talk and network with CLI delegates in a more informal setting.



Enjoying the Swiss landscapes during the field trips. Photo: N/A



Youth representatives at the Closing Plenary. Photo: IISD

### Day 4

#### *Youth Statements at the Closing Plenary*

The final day of the conference concluded with a strong youth presence in the closing plenary, with three youth representatives - Anna Stemberger (UNFF MGCY Focal Point), May Anne Then (IFSA President) and Jacob Amoako (HAFL student) - presenting the outcomes and of the Youth Workshop to the CLI. Anna began by outlining the purpose of the workshop, the process of identifying key policy challenges, and how the solutions to these issues were prepared. May Anne proceeded with a stirring discourse on Children and Youth values and visions for the future of international forest governance, drawing on the outcomes of group discussions and participatory activities from the previous days. These visions and values had strongly informed the development of policy recommendations, which were then presented by Jacob. A full outline of the speech can be found in Appendix 3.



Youth delegates networking with CLI delegates at the IFSA Networking Night. Photo: Olivia Sanchez Badini

### Networking events

The four days were filled with opportunities for the youth delegates to network with each other and with the country and organization representatives that attended the CLI. These events included a greet & meet evening between the MGCY delegation and HAFL local students; an IFSA Networking Night for students and CLI participants; a welcome dinner for all CLI participants; and a farewell dinner for the youth delegation, organized by the local Swiss students at a traditional fondue restaurant.



### III. KEY OUTCOMES

The most tangible outcome of this workshop was the set of policy proposals relating to the five key forest policy themes identified and discussed in the five working groups. These proposals are included in Appendix 4 'Major Group Children and Youth - Policy and Position Statement'. These initial draft proposals were then refined over the following months, and formed the basis for the clear and streamlined MGCY policy position at the 11th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, held in New York City from May 4-15, 2015.

However, this workshop also served to build the capacity of youth to understand and effectively engage with the UNFF, and international forest policy processes more broadly. Participants gained a strong appreciation of the IAF and the role of Major Groups such as the MGCY, and built skills in analyzing policy issues and developing clear and concise policy proposals. More broadly, the process of designing and participating in such a workshop, and of participating in the CLI itself, gave participants valuable experience in facilitating discussions, conducting informal negotiations, and networking.

#### Key outcomes of the Interlaken+10 Youth Workshop

- Raised the profile of UNFF among the IFSA youth network
- Broadened interest and participation of youth in the MGCY's activities
- Served as a valuable opportunity to gather youth from all geographical regions of the world for identifying youth's collective values and visions for the future of forests to better inform MGCY on areas of youth advocacy at UNFF11
- Provided an opportunity to test several approaches related to workshop design, including the implementation of the policy crash course, the presentations to the expert panels, and the techniques for increasing engagement



## IV. WORKSHOP EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE EVENTS

After the workshop, participants were asked to complete a post-workshop evaluation survey online, covering topics of content, structure, and organization of the activities. The following section summarized the main ideas and areas of consensus among participants.

Some areas that worked well included the pre-workshop reading material, the organization and logistics of the workshop, and the social events. Participants really valued the opportunity to get to know and work closely with people from different countries and cultures, particularly when sharing visions and values, as well as the many networking opportunities to connect with country delegates. They also agreed that the crash course was a great introduction to policy formulation, and considered they learnt many useful transferrable skills with the various innovative activities. From the organizer's perspective, elements that worked well included the goal setting and expectations activity, ice-breaker activities, debriefing with participants at the end of every day, and the collection of feedback from participants upon completion of the workshop.

A main area of improvement was time management, as many of the preparatory activities and initial brainstorming (e.g. problem definition, the first step of the policy formulation process) from the various working groups could have been done before the workshop. Even though instructions on pre-workshop preparation and expectations were sent via email, the majority of participants did not prepare well enough within the working groups to bring individual or group ideas on the first day of the workshop. Future events could benefit from having a very clear direction and very specific instructions in the preparation phase, and consider holding mandatory Skype meetings for delegates instead of leaving it up to each group's initiative.

Another area of improvement includes uneven motivation and ability within the working groups, as well as unequal distribution of speaking time or opportunities to present. Time permitting, a separate short activity could be implemented to ensure equal levels of participation from all team members.

Furthermore, while participants appreciated the opportunity to be present during the CLI and meet with country delegates during informal social activities and breaks, they would have benefited from greater participation in the CLI sessions and greater engagement with CLI participants. We recommend that future youth events conducted in association with UNFF intersessional activities are held prior to these main events (e.g. a few days before the main event starts). This would not only allow youth participants to attend the main event, but would also allow for greater discussion of youth event outcomes with country delegates, increasing the chance of uptake and support in UNFF sessions.

Additionally, even if participants were able to increase their understanding of the IAF and UNFF through background readings and presentations, future workshops would benefit from having a UN/UNFF facilitator working more closely with the youth organizers. A UN/UNFF facilitator could help youth participants identify and link the collective values of the youth major group into policy recommendations, and help differentiate between policy proposals and recommendations for implementation. Having such a facilitator present throughout would further this understanding, and would support the development of relevant and clearly directed discussions and policy proposals.

## V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Interlaken+10 Youth Workshop organizing team would like to extend their deepest gratitude to: the governments of Switzerland and Germany for funding and supporting the Youth Workshop; Urs Dietrich for his great work with MGCY over the past few years, and for his vision and preparatory work for the Interlaken+10 Youth Workshop; Jürgen Blaser for his guidance and continuous support for the involvement of youth at Interlaken +10 and the MGCY in UNFF processes; Claudia Greco from HELVETAS and Angela Deppeler from HAFL for their logistical support; the CLI organizers for providing the MGCY with the opportunity to present at the Closing Plenary and to raise awareness of the youth workshop and recommendations amongst CLI delegates; Florent Kaiser, Sarah Dickson-Hoyle, Gabrielle Schittecatte, and May Anne Then for their useful input and suggestions in the preparation of the workshop; the eleven anonymous IFSA members that reviewed and scored all applications; the expert panel group - Jürgen Blaser, Hosny El-Lakany, Charles Barber, Eva Müller, and Stephanie Caswell - for their great feedback on the youth delegation's presentations. Without all these individuals and organizations, the Interlaken+10 Youth Workshop would not have been possible - thank you!

*Olivia, Anna, Markus, Fabian, and Michael*



## VI. Appendix 1. Youth Workshop schedule

Schedule Overview – Interlaken +10 Youth Workshop (regular CLI activities in green)				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Arrival day	<b>8:30 - 9:00</b> Informal meeting with Prof. Hosny El Lakany <b>9:00 – 10:00</b> Opening Ceremony <b>10:00 – 10:30</b> Welcome Words by IFSA Reps <b>10:30 - 10:45</b> Youth Program overview by IFSA Reps <b>10:45 - 11:15</b> Ice-breaker activity <b>11:15 - 11:30</b> Break <b>11:30- 12:00</b> Expectations activity <b>12:00 - 12:30</b> Keynote Speaker (Dr. Sobral Filho)	<b>8:30 - 8:45</b> Briefing + Lobbying 101 <b>8:45 - 9:30</b> Presentation of synthesis of Tutorial 1 outcomes and discussion on additions/modifications <b>9:30 - 9:45</b> Break <b>9:45 – 11:00</b> Tutorial 2: Criteria and alternatives <b>11:00 - 11:30</b> Break <b>11:30 - 12:30</b> Tutorial 3: Consequences of alternatives and tradeoffs	<b>8:30 - 9:45</b> Preliminary presentation of the group statements (vision Part A and policy recommendations Part B), as well as paper outline (content and structure) to senior forest policy experts <b>10:30 - 11:00</b> Break/preparation for field trips <b>11:00</b> Departures on field trips	<b>8:00 – 8:30</b> Briefing <b>8:30 - 9:00</b> “Draw your forest” exercise to identify values, priorities, and opportunities <b>9:00 – 10:00</b> Presentation by facilitators on distilled values and vision. Discussion and input from group <b>10:00 – 10:30</b> Break <b>10:30 – 10:45</b> Presentation of speech outline (how values and vision would be integrated with policy proposals) <b>10:45 – 11:00</b> Comments on speech outline <b>11:00 - 12:30</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speech writing by presenters</li> <li>Discussion on paper outline with the rest of the group</li> </ul>
	<b>12:30</b> Lunch	<b>12:30</b> Lunch	<b>12:30</b> Lunch	<b>12:30</b> Lunch
	<b>14:00 - 15:00</b> Policy Implementation Crash Course by Gabrielle Schittecatte <b>15:00 - 15:30</b> Tutorial 1: Overview and problem definition <b>15:30 - 15:45</b> Break <b>15:45- 17:00</b> Presentation on current international processes in forestry by HAFL-Students <b>17:00 - 17:30</b> Debriefing	<b>14:00 - 14:15</b> Presentation on Forestry Education by Lena Lackner <b>14:15 - 14:30</b> Activity + discussion on youth involvement and forestry education <b>14:30 – 17:45</b> Group work free time - preparing presentations with experts <b>17:45 - 18:00</b> Debriefing and comments on the following day’s presentations	Field trips	<b>14:00 - 15:00</b> Group discussion on speech <b>15:30</b> CLI time: Distribution of the draft report, concluding discussion, and closing of the youth workshop  Input by Major Group Children & Youth: Vision of youth for forests at a regional and global level, and expectations of future international forest governance + Actionable items for a future IAF
	<b>17:30 – 18:30</b> Meet & greet with HAFL-Students	<b>18:00 - 20:00</b> IFSA social event - Networking with professionals	<b>17:30</b> Dinner in a local restaurant	
<b>20:00</b> Youth Delegation social	<b>18:30</b> Dinner reception	<b>20:00</b> Youth’s dinner at Restaurant Laterne <a href="http://www.restaurant-laterne.ch/">http://www.restaurant-laterne.ch/</a>		

## VI. Appendix 2. Youth Workshop Delegates

1. Michael Alder (Switzerland)
2. Jacob Amoako (Ghana)
3. Fifonsi Ayélé Dangbo (Togo)
4. Denver Cayetano (Belize)
5. Natalia Cisneros (Peru)
6. Lorea Coronado-Garcia (Denmark/USA)
7. Sarah Dickson Hoyle (Australia)
8. Jan Joseph Dida (Philippines)
9. Akiva Fishmann (USA)
10. Carolyne Kyalo (Kenya)
11. Magdalena Lackner (Austria)
12. Fabian Leu (Switzerland)
13. Grace Mageka (Kenya)
14. Tatenda Mapeto (South Africa/Zimbabwe)
15. Justine Moonens (Belgium)
16. Chidiebere Ofoegbu (South Africa)
17. Markus Pfannkuch (Switzerland)
18. Yusuf Samsudin (Indonesia/US)
19. Olivia Sanchez Badini (Canada/Mexico)
20. Gabrielle Schittecatte (Canada)
21. Anna Stemberger (Canada/USA)
22. May Anne Then (Canada/Malaysia)
23. Andrea Vasquez (Canada/Peru)
24. Vladislav Vejnovic (Austria/Serbia)
25. Nesibu Yahya Kedirkan (Ethiopia)



## VII. Appendix 3. Youth Speech at Closing Ceremony

### **Introduction** *(Anna Stemberger)*

Good afternoon distinguished guests,

In the past few months since becoming joint focal point for the Major Group Children and Youth, I have reflected on the challenges of increasing engagement of youth in the forum in a more meaningful and representative way.

I can say with certainty that the experience of Interlaken+10 Country Led Initiative has improved the process. While not perfect, it has greatly increased the number of voices engaged in the UNFF dialogue -we are 25 youth from 16 different countries representing diverse backgrounds. This meeting has increased Youth's capacity to engage in UNFF processes by clarifying our vision and values, and to put forth concrete policy recommendations on how to improve the future International Arrangement on Forests.

The delegates representing youth at this meeting have gone through a rigorous application process to be here. This has been followed up with preparation through research on the UNFF policy formulation in the following

#### **5 main themes:**

- Forest Governance,
- Forests and climate change,
- Forest management and technology,
- Multiple use of forests,
- Forestry education.

On Tuesday, many of us met in person for the very first time, by the end of the day on Wednesday we had defined policy problems, identified values to inform of criteria for evaluating policy alternatives, and choose the top policy solutions. On Thursday morning we presented to expert panel for feedback.

Thank you for the mentoring and time of our student panelists. Additionally, this workshop would not be possible without the generous contributions of the German and Swiss governments. I would like to especially thank Angela Deppeler and the Swiss Students of the Bern University of Applied Science, and Claudia Greco from Helvetas.

The outcome of this workshop is a youth statement with concrete policy recommendations to address issues that we see as important within the current framework of the IAF. This policy brief will be included in the CLI report and distributed ahead of UNFF11.

It is with great honour, that I present May Anne Then who will share our values and vision and Jacob Amoako to present the policy recommendations of our workshop

May Anne Then is the President of the International Forestry Students' Association and student at the University of British Columbia in the Faculty of Forestry. Jacob Amoako is a Masters in the International Forestry Master's Program at the Bern University of Applied Science.



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### **Part A: Vision and Values** *(May Anne Then)*

As youth of today, we believe in:

- Respect
- Resilience
- Transparency
- Equitable partnerships
- Unity in Diversity

These values translate into a world we envision for the future.

As the youth of today,

- We envision a world where youth are valued and can actively participate in decision-making & equitable partnerships;
- We envision innovative education systems which can adapt to the changing needs and expectations of our local and global communities;
- We envision respect for forest ecosystems, individuals and their diverse perspectives on forests;
- We envision holistic governance of our forests, where societies are aware of earth's finite resources;
- We envision resilient forests as a part of a multifunctional landscape, where people have equitable access and rights
- We envision knowledge, in all its forms, valued and shared between and among different nations

We realize that the world we currently live in is not the world we envision.

So today, as the focal points of the Major Group of Children & Youth, the International Forestry Students' Association commits to the following four actions:

Firstly, to strengthen our partnerships with other youth organizations to increase youth representation within the Major Group

Secondly, to raise the importance of UNFF processes among our peers through the International Day of Forests

Thirdly, to lobby our country representatives to allow active youth participation in country delegations - to ensure uptake of our proposals

Fourthly, to compile our collective youth statement and policy proposals to be included in the Country-Led Initiative final report to be distributed ahead of the UNFF 11

These are the actions that we commit to in realizing our visions. And now, we would like to ask you to consider the problems we have identified based on our core values and specific solutions we have designed.

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### **Part B: Problems and Solutions** (*Jacob Amoako*)

As youth, we identified EIGHT (8) pertinent problems:

Firstly, we see a lack of implementation of previously agreed policies AND a focus on problems of the past

Secondly, We also see an inadequate long-term strategic approach to halt the impacts of climate change on sustainable forest management

Also, there is a lack of political commitment to innovative approaches to utilize the potential of forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation

We also see an emphasis on profit-logic perspectives of consumption is problematic

We see a lack of transparency and accountability of the global supply chains

We see a limited availability of reliable data and the limited utilization of new technologies

There is also a lack of societal awareness of the multiple values of forests and the multifaceted nature of forestry

Lastly, we see a failure of our education systems to adapt to emerging issues and approaches

### **Policy recommendations**

In light of these problems, we propose the following actionable solutions that we believe if considered and implemented by UNFF would optimize the benefits accrued from forests and enhance sustainable and equitable use of forests.

On the problem of forest governance:

- Firstly, we propose the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) should establish new rules that enable participation of all major Groups in all stages of discussion
- Member States should establish a permanent working group (One from each Major Group) tasked with staying on current emerging challenges to the forest sector (e.g. deforestation driven by land use change – zero deforestation commitments), and putting them on the UNFF's agenda

For addressing climate change, we propose:

- The forest instrument be revised to include a clause to prioritize climate change mitigation and adaptation, and strengthen the capacity of countries to address these issues through sustainable forest management.

For Multiple use of forests, we propose:

- International action plans addressing both transparency standards for Multi-National Corporations and governments and public learning about the ecological and social costs, taking into account our planetary boundaries.

For management of forests and use of technology, we propose:

- The establishment of internet based learning platform and global data network, in support to the existing SFM toolbox (FAO), to share knowledge and promote capacity-building

And finally, for forest education, we propose to

- Establish a 'Forest Impact Lab', tasked with strengthening collaborative research and development of forest and forestry related education. The overarching aim of this 'global centre of excellence' is to identify gaps in, and develop innovative tools and technologies to inform and shape, forestry curricula, communications and capacity building.
- Two unique projects for the Forest Impact Learning have already been identified:
  - 1) Developing a forestry education and communications toolbox; and
  - 2) Forest Impact Week, consisting of regional workshops and a global symposium, co-chaired by youth
- Hosted by a re-established global forest education network under the UNFF secretariat, the Forest Impact Lab would consist of a core group of representatives from the CPF, regional education networks, and the MGCY; it would then function as a participatory and dynamic platform to connect researchers, practitioners and students/youth as well as existing and emerging regional educational networks

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### **Conclusion** *(May Anne Then)*

We began this workshop asking ourselves whether we think this week, what we are doing, will matter, and I think after going through this process, we strongly believe that we DO.

Yesterday, among the snow-laden trees resembling crystallized giants and amongst the rolling, shimmering hills of white, I pondered this idea of 'will'.

Despite discussions about the challenges behind possible alternative governance structures, what emerged was that if the will is strong, everything else will follow.

Compared to the 197 members in the UNFF, our group of 25 may seem small. But despite our limited numbers, and balancing studies and work, our collective will as youth of today has brought us here to speak to you.

I am emphasizing that we are the 'youth of today' because youth are a part of the world we all live in right now. We are breathing the same air, speaking about the same forests; we are among you.

We are often told that we are the future, but the world we envision is a world where children, youth and adults, are all considered equal citizens of this earth. The 'youth of the future' are in fact, the 'youth of today'.

As Youth of Today, we do not simply present policy recommendations for you to consider. We have committed our wills to actions and strongly believe that the will of the UNFF and ours can be aligned to produce meaningful action.

Thank you.



## IX. Appendix 4. Major Group Children and Youth - Policy and Position Statement

The UNFF Major Group Children and Youth (MGCY) held a policy analysis workshop in parallel to the Country-led Initiative (CLI). The workshop consisted of a step-by-step process, grounded in policy analysis and implementation theory, whereby youth representatives from 16 countries identified forest management and governance challenges relevant to youth, and developed concrete solutions to these issues. These challenges and solutions are presented below according to five thematic areas. Each policy proposal can be taken as a stand-alone solution to a specific problem, or can be integrated with others in a holistic manner.

### **Forest Policy and Governance**

Forest governance is subject to overlapping jurisdictions at the international level, and is often overshadowed by other policy issues. There has been inadequate implementation of previously agreed policies by UNFF members, and UNFF efforts have been limited to addressing problems of the past, with inadequate participation by non-governmental stakeholders.

As such, the MGCY proposes several changes. First, ECOSOC rules governing Major Group participation in deliberations and decision-making processes should be modified to enable participation in all stages of discussion. In order to stay relevant, UNFF must adapt its rules governing participation to the 21st Century, and enable civil society participation in all stages of discussion. For instance, other UN bodies such as the CBD have much more liberal rules of participation that reflect modern values of inclusivity. The UNFF should further consider existing models within the UN architecture, such as the Committee on World Food Security, that grant decision making authority to non-governmental stakeholders.

Second, UNFF Member States should establish a permanent subsidiary body tasked with staying current on emerging challenges, opportunities, and priorities in the forest sector, for their timely inclusion in UNFF's agenda. The body should be comprised of representatives from Major Groups and CPF, be representative of diverse geographical regions, and meet at least once a year.

Third, the UNFF should create a parallel structure that would provide a forum for both governments and non-governmental stakeholders to dialogue on issues that are relevant to the governmental plenary. The Forests Dialogue provides a useful model for effectively encouraging participation by multiple stakeholders in conversations on controversial forest policy issues. Outcomes of these dialogues would be reported to the plenary for formal uptake during deliberations.

### **Multiple Uses of Forests**

Current economic policies emphasize profit-logic perspectives of consumption of goods and services that go beyond planetary boundaries. Furthermore, there exists a misrepresentation of the associated social and ecological costs, and a lack of transparency and accountability of global supply chains that has resulted in waste and inappropriate distribution of resources. This has led to further marginalization of already-oppressed groups.

To address these issues, the UNFF could develop and adopt international action plans to deal with transparency and accountability standards for governments and multi-national corporations (MNC) dealing with

forest products. We further recommend the design and implementation of action plans that promote the use of indigenous sciences and practices in forest management. These action plans should be developed and implemented in accordance to international agreements, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and International Labor Organization Convention No. 169. These international agreements will provide for the consultation, consent, and involvement of the holders of indigenous science to promote fair and equitable sharing from their use of forests.

### **Forest Management and Technology**

Strongly linked to inadequacies within the realm of forest education is the issue of lack of access to new technologies and reliable data, particularly for youth from developing regions. Even if UNFF promotes the development and application of scientific and technological innovations to advance Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), currently there is limited availability of reliable data and limited utilization of new technologies that hinder these objectives.

Based on the aforementioned problems, we recommend the establishment of an internet/wiki-based learning platform and global data network in support to FAO's SFM toolbox to share knowledge and promote capacity building among youth and other Major Groups. Additionally, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and emphasis on research and technology should be emphasized in the Forest Instrument as a means of achieving SFM.

### **Forestry Education**

There is a lack of societal awareness of the multiple values of forests, and inadequate support at a global level for education on forests. Furthermore, education systems have often failed to adapt to emerging issues and approaches. To address these problems, and the education-related goals stated within the NLBI, the MGCY propose that UNFF member states support the establishment of a 'Forest Impact Lab' (FIL), tasked with strengthening collaborative research and development of forestry education.

The aim of this virtual 'global centre of excellence' is to identify gaps in, and develop innovative tools and technologies to inform and shape, forestry curricula, communications, and capacity building. Hosted by a re-established global forest education network under the UNFF Secretariat, the FIL would consist of a core group of representatives from the CPF, regional education networks, and the MGCY. The FIL would then function as a participatory and dynamic platform to connect researchers, practitioners and students/youth, as well as existing and emerging regional education networks.

Two unique projects for the FIL have been identified:

- 1) The continual development of a global forestry education and communications toolbox, consisting of modules, new approaches to research, and knowledge sharing tools; and
- 2) Establishment of an annual Forest Impact Week (co-chaired by youth), consisting of regional workshops to build the capacity of institutions to integrate and implement the FIL tools, and a global symposium to share best practices and priorities and feedback to the UNFF and FIL.

### **Forests and Climate Change**

There are inadequate long-term strategic approaches to address the impacts of climate change on SFM. Further, there is a lack of coordination within the UNFF to address climate change in relation to forests from both mitigation and adaptation standpoints.

Climate change is mentioned only once and very vaguely in the current version of the NLBI. Thus, we recommend the inclusion of a clause (ideally in Section VI, but also in section V) to prioritize climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to strengthen the capacity of countries to address these issues through SFM.