

According to resolution E/2000/35 that established the Forum, the participation of a wide range of forest-related stakeholders, including major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, is considered a key component of sustainable forest management (SFM) (through this resolution, accredited major group organizations with E+ and the Commission on Sustainable Development are encouraged to participate in Forum sessions'

In April 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2001 Forest Principles, the global framework for action at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests, and to halt deforestation and forest degradation' (the 2001 Forest Principles states that effective implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) depends on the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including forest owners, indigenous peoples, local communities, local authorities, the private sector (including small, medium and large forest-based enterprises) non-governmental organizations, women, children, youth and scientific, academic and philanthropic organizations at all levels³

In addition, Forum endeavours to work with major groups and other relevant stakeholders to identify ways to enhance their contributions to the achievement of the global targets at all levels and their interactions with the Forum and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) including through networks, advisor groups and other mechanisms, to raise awareness, foster information exchange and dissemination and facilitate coordinated inputs⁶

At UNFF2, member States further welcomed the initiatives undertaken by major groups in contributing to the development and implementation of the 2001 Forest Principles and the Forum⁷ 63+8⁵ (the Forum encouraged major groups and other relevant stakeholders to continue their involvement in the work of the Forum, including by elaborating proposals or work plans on how they can contribute to

the implementation of the O1\$3F and the Forum 7 63+ 8, and to present such proposals or plans to the Forum at O 1 FF!3⁹

At O 1 FF!3, member \$tates welcomed the oint workplan de-eloped b" the ma or groups to accelerate achie-ement of the global forest goals and complementar" workplan de-eloped b" the children and "outh ma or group' (he member \$tates in-ited ma or groups to inform the Forum at O 1 FF!6 on progress made in implementing the workplans' (he Forum also in-ited ma or group partners to undertake initiati-es to accelerate the contributions of forests

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societal perspectives on O1FF167 thematic priorities' (his report will also include

- Actions for promoting and or advancing global forest policy coherence; and
- Actions for promoting and or advancing a common understanding of SF%

The expert meeting will take place from : to !! January 20!., at O1E\$* A3 in Bangkok, Thailand'

Approximately 30 key experts from O1FF %a or 2 groups and other stakeholders will participate in this expert meeting in their personal capacity''

The expert meeting will be held from 10 am to 9 pm daily and will include a discussion on the major groups workplans including acceleration in achieving of the global forest goals; major groups initiatives to accelerate the contributions of forests to achieving the SDGs under review in 20!.; civil societal perspectives on O1FF167 thematic priorities, and major groups contributions to the global forest policy coherence and a common understanding of SF%'

The expert meeting will be conducted in English