

## NGO and IPO comments on CPF Network Concept Paper, New York, 7 March 2002

**Forest Peoples Programme, Fern, Global Forest Coalition, Greenpeace International, International Alliance of Indigenous-Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, ICTI-Tanimbar, Institute of Cultural Affairs-Ghana, Friends of the Siberian Forests-Russia**

### *Positive Elements:*

The above NGOs welcome the opportunity to comment on the CPF concept paper prepared by the CPF in February 2002. We are also glad to be able to participate in further discussions regarding the roles, functions and working modalities of the CPF Network. Progressive elements in the concept paper, which incorporate many of the points made by NGOs and IPOs at the first formal session of the UNFF and in comments on the draft paper include the:

- recognition that: "...NGOs (and) indigenous peoples organisations (IPOs)... are playing or can play an important role in supporting the work of the UNFF";
- acknowledgement that: "these groups offer a wide range of experiences, resources and perspectives that have enriched the intergovernmental dialogue on forests and enhanced collaborative action on forests at the national, regional and global levels";
- recollection that NGOs and IPOs have "stressed the need to improve collaboration between CPF members not only at the international level, but also at the local and national levels";
- adoption of several (but not all) NGO recommendations on the objectives, functions and modalities of the CPF Network;

### *Gaps:*

The concept paper does not clearly recognise that:

- one working modality for the Network should include face-to-face meetings with CPF staff and UNFF national focal points at the national level;
- CPF funds should be available to enable CPF network members to attend face-to-face meetings at the national and international levels;
- the Network could help facilitate the exchange of monitoring reports;
- representatives of NGOs and IPOs should be given observer status in CPF member meetings;
- the Network should foster communication that allows major groups to express concerns and make recommendations regarding CPF policies and programmes relating to forests and forest peoples.

### *Recommendations:*

In addition to the constructive proposals set out in its concept paper, CPF members should ensure that the CPF Network:

- holds national-level meetings among CPF Network participants and facilitate the involvement of CPF network participants in the activities of CPF members at the country level;
- facilitates collaborative reviews of National Forest Programmes and CPF policies and programmes;
- provides resources to enable participation of NGOs and IPOs in Network meetings and in CPF meetings; proactively circulates to CPF Network participants timely information on the CPF activities;
- provides two NGO and two IPO representatives observer status in each CPF meeting;
- addresses the digital divide by disseminating hard copies of CPF information translated into local languages to CPF Network participants in developing countries;

