



Development of a UNFF Non Legally Binding Instrument on Forests

Australia's Response to Consolidated Submissions on the Indicative Elements

Background

Australia has made two previous contributions to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) regarding the proposal to develop a Non Legally Binding Instrument (NLBI) on forests.

At UNFF6 we prepared a short list of nine potential elements of a NLBI. We prepared this list during the UNFF session in an attempt to assist delegations to find some common ground on what a NLBI might cover, even before the Forum had agreed to develop the NLBI. As such it was not meant to be a definitive Australian position on potential elements, but rather an attempt to find common elements among the various proposals being suggested by delegations.

Australia's second contribution (June 2006) was provided to the UNFF Secretariat in an attempt to provide a possible framework for integrating most of the "potential elements" that had been proposed in seven submissions made during UNFF6. We tried to propose a logical approach to incorporating the various issues and elements raised by countries, without suggesting detailed text. Once again our contribution was not a definitive Australian position on the potential elements of the NLBI.



Australia's Perspectives on the NLBI and the Submissions



Examples of these types of elements could include agreement on global principles for sustainable forest management, mechanisms to achieve a reduction in the trade of illegal forest products and mechanisms to provide objective mutual recognition of forest certification schemes.

To this end Australia considers that the indicative elements proposed



deliberations.

Australia recognises that the Forum will ultimately be the body to determine the form and scope of the NLBI and to negotiate text. However, Australia strongly believes that the Forum will need strong support and cooperation from the members if the negotiations are to be concluded at UNFF7.

Australia considers that the Bureau will need to