

Facilitation of Trade in Forest Products

Consumers seek assurances that the forest products they purchase are derived from sources that are sustainable. A legally binding instrument would facilitate such trade by virtue of signatories clearly demonstrating to consumers their commitment to and compliance with sustainable forest management practices.

Action-Oriented Results

A dedicated legally binding instrument on forests would generate the highest degree of commitment to sustainable forest management at the national, regional, and international levels. Past experience has shown that voluntary instruments are less effective in improving practices on the ground.

Elements

Canada considers that a legally binding agreement on forests should be based on the UNCED Statement of Forest Principles and, *as a minimum*, should

- (1) **provide global governance of a common agenda for action** by the forest community through a conference of the parties, bringing international forest and forestry-related matters under the governance of ministers responsible for forests;
- (2) **provide the basis for a common understanding of sustainable forest management**, taking into account ecological, economic, social, and cultural similarities and differences among countries. The agreement should identify a set of criteria consistent with existing international processes on criteria and indicators;
- (3) **specify rights and obligations related to achieve sustainable forest management** in areas such as national and subnational forest policy frameworks, forest