

Second APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry Cusco Statement

We, the Ministers and Senior Officials on Forest and Forestry of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), held in Cusco, Peru on 14 – 16 August 2013.

Underscoring forest goals that Sydney Leaders Declaration set in 2007, such as increasing by 20 million hectares of forests in the region by 2020 and to establish the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation;

Recalling the 2010 Yokohama APEC Leader's Declaration to "enhance work on meeting the aspirational goal in the Sydney Declaration and instruct our officials to take concrete steps toward this goal, and to enhance our cooperation to address concerns with illegal logging and associated trade and to promote sustainable forest management and rehabilitation";

Recalling also the 2011 Honolulu Leader's Declaration to encourage actions to reduce the illegal trade of the forest products and to strengthen the coordination with the private sector, to promote investments on forestry;

Building upon the 2011 Beijing First APEC Meeting of Ministers responsible for Forestry Declaration to contribute with mitigation on the effects of Climate Change through sustainable forest management and conservation, in order to reach the goal of increasing by 20 million hectares of forests by 2020, set in Sydney on 2007;

Welcoming the 2012 Vladivostok APEC Leader's Declaration facing challenges of the global economy and the fragile financial market, and the recognition of the unique role of forest contributing to enhance local and rural livelihood of the members of APEC;

Recognizing the very important role that forest plays in APEC economies, not only as source of services, but also as a support of livelihood for lot of individuals, different development needs and objectives in each country, and the great challenges related to support of green growth and sustainable development, we aspire to:

1. Ensure that Sustainable forest management, forest conservation, and rehabilitation in APEC economies enhance welfare for all forest users, including native communities;
2. Promote private investment with experience, technology and financing, to embrace sustainable practices; such as sustainable forest management, certifications, and decent labour conditions; and to thrust value creation in forest product supply chains, in order to make forest production competitive;
3. Promote specialized investments in sustainable forest utilize, not only in timber activities but also in other forest products and services, in order to maximize long-term forest benefits for society and minimizing short-term impacts;
4. Maintain and strengthening the political commitment to support sustainable forest management, forest conservation and forest rehabilitation;

5. Recognize the important role of native communities and their traditional knowledge in sustainable forest management, and promoting linkages with other economic activities;
6. Recognize forest information as a key factor for policymakers in order to know and monitor forest resources;
7. Promote technical cooperation among APEC economies in order to share and learn successful experiences in governance, especially institutional and legal frameworks, regulation and public policies to promote sustainable forest management, in all the different developing stages;
8. Promote capacity building in sustainable forest management for national and regional governments, private sector and native communities;
9. Encourage the development of local and rural industries that generate employment and value-added products, making them competitive for the national and international market;
10. Maintain and strengthening the governments' efforts in associated trade and forest productivity, against illegal logging, promoting trade in legally harvested forest products, and to contribute to sustainable economical development and livelihood;
11. Acknowledge the contribution of APEC Forestry Ministerial Meeting as a mechanism to monitor, implement and recommend actions to achieve Leaders instructions on green development and sustainable forest;
12. Request when applicable the establishment of policy partnerships dialogues within the APEC framework to address the implementations of the Forestry goals and commitments;
13. Commit APEC's Ministers and Senior Officials on Forest and Forestry to develop studies and analysis on the forest cover of the region, and to quantify the economical benefits derived from these covers;
14. Promote research and the sharing of information and experiences to prevent and control forest fire, plagues, forest diseases and any other damaging agents which might affect biodiversity.
15. Promote meetings with other international groups, which interests are according with APEC needs in forest and forestry issues;
16. Request to APEC Ministers and Leaders to support and endorse this commitment.