

JAPAN

Mr. Yuichi Sato

Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

on behalf of

the Montreal Process Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to have this opportunity to make a brief statement on behalf of the Montreal Process Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests.

The Montreal Process, concurrently with the Pan-European process on criteria and indicators initiated under the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), has developed, adopted and implemented the Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for sustainable forest management in temperate and boreal forests in the member countries. The members include 12 countries; Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Korea, United States of America, Uruguay and Japan, that across the Continents, account for 60 percent of all forests in the world, and 90 percent of the world's temperate and boreal forests.

One of the goals of the Montreal Process is to enhance the relevance of the criteria and indicators to sustainable forest management and improve each member country's ability to report on forest trends and progress toward sustainable forest management. Since the Montreal Process adopted a set of 7 Criteria and 67 Indicators in 1995, we have produced a number of outcomes. In 1998, we developed comprehensive Technical Notes to help with data collection and reporting. In 2003, the 1st Country Forest Reports were prepared by member countries using the criteria. Also in 2003, the Working Group prepared the 1st Montreal Process overview report that presents data from all 12 countries. We are in the process of finalizing a three-year process to review and revise the 67 indicators based on experiences gained in preparing the 2003 Country Forest Reports. The set of indicators will be used by member countries in our second reporting period in 2009/2010 in time for the next World Forest Congress and the 2011 International Year of the Forest.

The concept of sustainable forest management is now widely understood among the 12 Montreal Process countries. We have each improved our capacity to assess and report on national forest trends. We have used our C&I as a framework for developing policies, plans and inventories at sub-national levels. In North America and the Southern Cone of Latin America, countries have cooperated to develop and apply consistent approaches to forest inventory and data collection.

We had also appreciated the opportunity to participate in the collaboration workshop hosted by MCPFE in Poland and are working to further the results of that workshop with your scientists in another workshop next year. Through these supportive activities and event, we have accumulated the experiences and lessons learnt in regards to the application of the criteria and indicators in the respective countries.

At the beginning of this year, Japan was given the role of liaison office for the Montreal Process from Canada, which had hosted the Liaison Office since 1995. We will make every effort to fulfill

the expectations of our role. The current challenges the Montreal Process faces include finalizing our revision of the Montreal Process indicators, revision of the technical notes based on the new indicators and developing the first Montreal Process strategic action plan. The Working Group will address these issues at its meeting later this month in Buenos Aires. It was noted in the United Nations Forum on Forests that *the member states should consider the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management, which are drawn from the criteria identified by existing C&I processes, and should, on voluntary basis, submit national reports to the Forum taking into consideration the seven thematic elements.* In this regards, it will also be required to facilitate the preparation of the 2nd national reports by each Montreal Process member country with the improvement of reporting quality. Possible future collaboration and harmonization with the other criteria and indicators initiatives, including MCPFE, would also be desirable.

Finally, we would like to thank you for the kind hospitality extended to us during this important meeting. I also thank you for the interesting and important discussion regarding mitigation of climate change during this conference. We look forward to working closely with the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

Thank you.