



Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I, as a current chair of the Montreal Process Working Group, would like to express my sincere appreciation to the UNFF Secretariat giving me an opportunity to make this statement.

The Montréal Process on criteria and indicators for the conservation and sustainable management of temperate and boreal forests (MP) was launched in 1994 as a response to the Rio Forest Principles and the Chapter 11 of Agenda 21. It has 12 member countries (Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Korea, United States of America, Uruguay and Japan) accounting for 80% of the world's temperate and boreal forests and 50% of all forests in the world.

The MP is a framework to identify shared goals and improve countries' capacities for the promotion of SFM. It is being operated by voluntary contributions from 12 member countries based on confidence and trust among countries. The MP Working Group, which is a decision making body for MP, holds its regular meetings hosted by member countries on a rotational basis and is open to representatives of other criteria and indicators processes, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The Working Group is supported by the MP Liaison Office (LO) established in 1995 and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) established in 1996. The LO is currently hosted by the Government of Japan.

In 1995, MP member countries adopted the Santiago Declaration affirming their commitment to the conservation and sustainable management of their respective forests and endorsing 7 criteria and 67 associated indicators as guidelines for policy-makers to use in assessing national forest trends and progress toward sustainable forest management. In 2003, MP member countries developed and published their first Country Forest Reports using the MP criteria and indicators (C&I). Illustrative trends drawn from the 12 country reports are highlighted in the Montreal Process First Forest Overview Report 2003.

In order to enhance the relevance of the indicators to sustainable forest management (SFM) and improve each

member country's ability to report, MP started a review process of the original set of indicators since 2003, and completed the revision by endorsing a set of 54 indicators in November 2008 at its 19th meeting in Russia. The revised set of indicators will be used by member countries in our second reporting 2009 in time for the next World Forest Congress in October 2009.

Now the MP is in the process of producing the Montreal Process 2009 Overview Report highlighting four priority issues: i) Climate change; ii) Biodiversity; iii) Energy; and iv) Water, which are quite relevant to the substantive matters of UNFF8. The 2009 Overview Report, which is scheduled to be presented at the XIII World Forestry Congress in October 2009, will achieve the following objectives.

The MP Strategic Action Plan (SAP), which provides direction for Montréal Process activities for the period 2009–2015, was adopted in November 2008 at its 19th meeting in Russia. It serves as the Working Group's overall guiding document and road map through 2015 and is a principal tool for communicating Montréal Process objectives and priorities to stakeholders within member countries, other governments, other C&I processes and relevant regional and international organizations. The SAP 2009-2015 is based on the Forest Instrument. More details you may find on the MP web site.

Based on the tasks of the future sessions of the Forum laid down in the multiyear programme of work for period 2007-2015, a major challenge in the coming years will be reporting on the status of SFM worldwide and on progress made in the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the global objectives on forests. MP country reports 2003 and 2009 will be very important in preparing for the review at the ninth session of the Forum.

Finally, we I'd like to let you know that the MP is planning to organize a side event at the XIII World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires. We, Montreal process member countries are very much looking forward to your active participation in the event to exchange the views and experiences for the promotion of SFM.

Thank you, the Chair.