

Resolution of Bamako Regional Workshop for African and the Near East Low Forest Cover Countries

(January, 2004, Bamako- Mali)

In the workshop for African and the Near East Low Forest Cover Countries organized by the TP Secretariat, FAO and UNEP, from 14- to 16 January 2004 in Bamako, Mali the participants agreed unanimously of what follows:

To Governments, FAO, UNEP and Donors:

- 1- Reaffirm their adherence to the process and positively endorsed the findings and the recommendations presented in the background documents discussed at the time the workshop.
- 2- Implement the Tehran Process through actions at political, institutional level as well at political level.
- 3- Request FAO, UNEP and UNFF, including countries and donors involved to continue to support and reinforce financially and technically the Tehran Process and the Secretariat.
- 4- Request the Government of Iran to continue its support to the Tehran Process and to the Secretariat and invite other Low Forest Cover Countries as well as the donors to joint the process.
- 5- Request the Secretariat to elaborate, with assistance of UNEP and FAO, appropriate related legal texts and propose the institutional setting to be adopted by a ministerial conference of which date and venue are to defined later one. The documents should be made available to the countries for observations at least three months before the conference.
- 6- Request the Secretariat, with assistance of UNEP and FAO, to amend the texts on the basis of comments and suggestions made by the countries, at least one month before the conference.
- 7- Request the Secretariat, with assistance of UNEP and FAO, to compile the conclusions and recommendations and the resolution of the Bamako Workshop and send it to all LFCCs, potential members of Tehran Process.
- 8- Request the Government of Iran, with assistance of Secretariat and FAO to approach LFCCs governments to discuss the opportunity to organize a ministerial conference in early 2005 which conference will adopt the legal and institutional framework proposed by the Secretariat and FAO and officially endorse the Tehran Process and create the organization.
- 9- Request the Ministers of the Low Forest Cover Countries to seize all opportunities of any international meeting to debate the adoption and the stake of the Tehran Process.
- 10- On the basis of the propositions submitted to the participants, it has been agreed to privilege the option to set up the institution on the basis of simple resolution adopted by a Ministerial Council of which modalities, the date and the venue of the first meeting will be defined later on.

- 11- The council, chaired by a Minister of one of the member countries, will be advised by a scientific and technical committee, composed of high level scientists and experts.
- 12- To develop a synergy between the Tehran Process and related international conventions endorsed by Rio and Johannesburg conferences on sustainable development, e.g. UNCCD (Combating desertification), Climate Changes, UNCBD (Biological Diversity), etc.
- 13- A strong support is awaited from the member countries and partners currently involved in the Tehran process and in Low Forest Cover Countries.
- 14- Reaffirm the independency of the secretariat in order to assist in all neutrality the countries to design and implement their programmes.
- 15- Request FAO to continue its technical assistance to low forest cover countries and finalize the formulation of forest resources assessment and institutional and technical capacity building of the Secretariat and countries, as discussed at the workshop, to be submitted to the country for comments and endorsement before their implementation, with particular focus on natural resource use, sustainable forest and tree management, planted forest and trees outside forests promoting.

To the Tehran Process Secretariat:

- 16- Invite the secretariat to work on the definitions of Low Forest Cover Countries (forest cover percentage, areas, types, etc) based on clear and consensual criteria to be discussed in workshop.
- 17- Request the secretariat to continue, in the interim period, to continue liaising with the country interim focal points, coordinate activities related to the formulation of the legal and institutional framework, formulation of mandate of the council and the secretariat and the establishment of the network.