

NEW INITIATIVE TO ACCELERATE GLOBAL ACTION ON FORESTS IS ANNOUNCED AT COP 23: LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR THE NEW YORK DECLARATION ON FORESTS

New York, November 2017 – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announces the launch of a Global Platform for the New York Declaration on Forests (“NYDF Platform”), at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany. The NYDF Platform aims to accelerate achievement of the goals expressed in the New York Declaration on Forests, a landmark commitment to forest protection and restoration launched at the 2014 UN Secretary-General’s Climate Summit.

The launch of the Global Platform provides a central coordination mechanism to increase political ambition, accelerate action, forge new partnerships, and monitor progress towards the ten ambitious goals of the NYDF. The NYDF Platform will be convened by UNDP, which will serve as its secretariat, in partnership with Meridian Institute and Climate Advisers. The NYDF Platform will also collaborate closely with the NYDF Assessment Partners (www.forestdeclaration.org), a network of civil society groups and research institutions that annually publishes the NYDF Progress Assessment, an independent evaluation of progress toward meeting the NYDF goals.

“Without a doubt, protecting, restoring and sustainably managing the world’s tropical forests is one of the most important climate solutions available to us today. We cannot achieve the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 2 degrees without focused collaborative efforts on forests,” said State Secretary Flasbarth of the German Ministry for the Environment, *“Germany intends to support the launch of the NYDF Platform as a signal of real intention by NYDF endorsers to accelerate action to protect and restore the world’s forests.”*

The New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) is an innovative partnership of multinational companies, governments, civil society and indigenous peoples pledging to cut natural forest loss in half by 2020 and to end it by 2030. The NYDF commitment, if realized, will eliminate the emission of between 4.5 and 8.8 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide each year, equivalent to removing the carbon emissions produced by one billion cars.

The NYDF has been endorsed by over 190 entities, including 40 countries in the developed and developing world – including the United States, the European Union, and key tropical forest countries including Colombia, Peru and Indonesia – as well as by major multinationals from food, paper, finance and other industries; civil society organizations; and indigenous peoples from around the world.

“Meeting the world’s climate and forest goals will only be possible through the collaborative action of all forest stakeholders—countries, companies, indigenous peoples, and civil society included” said Jamison Ervin of UNDP. *“The New York Declaration on Forests is a prime example of this much-needed collaboration in action, and UNDP is proud to host the Global Platform for the NYDF to accelerate partnership and action to end deforestation.”*

Commenting on the launch of the NYDF Platform, César Rey, Director of Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at Colombia’s Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, remarked:

“The challenges we face in addressing deforestation are daunting, yet with strong and committed partnership among governments, industry, indigenous and local communities as well as the international community, I am confident we can achieve the ground-breaking vision of the NYDF. By facilitating synergies among the range of activities and stakeholders involved in protecting forests, transforming supply chains and improving forest livelihoods and governance, the NYDF Platform can only help advance our collective efforts.”

“For indigenous peoples, forests are the center of our cultural and spiritual lives,” said Mina Setra, Deputy Secretary General of the Indigenous Peoples’ Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN). “Because of our commitment to protect our forests, indigenous peoples face ongoing threats to our lives, our rights and our livelihoods. We look forward to working with the NYDF Platform to strengthen forest governance, transparency, and rule of law, and to advance recognition of our rights as indigenous peoples.”

“Improved agricultural practices is a key solution to deforestation, and is therefore a critical issue for companies like ours,” said Diane Holdorf, Chief Sustainability Officer at the Kellogg Company. “To achieve our shared ambition to slow and halt the loss of our forests, we need to accelerate our work to build partnerships, strengthening policies, and create incentives to drive outcomes. The NYDF Platform will help us get there.”

For more information on the New York Declaration on Forests and its endorsers, please visit:

<https://nydfglobalplatform.org/>

For more information on the NYDF Assessment Partners and NYDF Progress Assessment, please visit:

<http://forestdeclaration.org/>

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