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Tropical Rainforest Countries

Joint Statement* of the Leaders of Tropical Rainforest Countries

We, the Heads of State and Government and the high-level representatives of Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Peru, met in New York on 24 September 2007, resolving to enhance cooperation among countries blessed with a wealth of tropical rainforests.

We resolve to promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and eradication of poverty while intensifying our collective efforts towards the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, along with the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests and Agenda 21, both adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and the Millennium Development Goals.

While reaffirming and upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the sovereign rights of countries over their natural resources, we recognize the primary responsibility of industrialized nations for the current atmospheric interference leading to global warming and its consequences, including the resulting challenges of mitigation and adaptation. We note with concern the recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which indicate that forests may be among the main victims of climate change, resulting in dire impacts on the environment, ecosystems and livelihoods, particularly of those populations that depend directly on forests.

Noting that all types of forests, including tropical forests, play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance as sinks, sources and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, we emphasize that the tropical rainforests within our countries, which constitute about half the world's tropi-

cal rainforests, serve as sources of livelihood and as repositories of the cultural heritage of vast numbers of people, while the ecosystems of these rainforests serve as habitat for diverse biological species and as storehouses of genetic resources for food, medicine and various goods and services that can help sustain present and future generations of humankind.

We also undertake to engage with relevant stakeholders and countries to work constructively on other equally important issues. In this regard, we support the efforts to address the retreat of glaciers which threatens the supply of water required to sustain human life and the agricultural needs of large populations in some developing countries.

While recognizing that many developing countries can contribute to combating climate change through reducing emissions from deforestation, forest degradation and land-use change, we also understand that the challenge for developing countries of reducing emissions from land-use change is complex and cumbersome, as is the challenge for developed countries of reducing emissions from the industry and energy

voluntary efforts through capacity-building, research and development, and transfer of appropriate environmentally sound technologies.

Further, we call for mobilization of new and additional financial resources sufficient to implement non-restrictive policy approaches and positive incentives, under the Convention, and in other international forums, to support our voluntary efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as enhancing sequestration through sustainable forest management and forest conservation, and increasing carbon sinks through afforestation and reforestation, including support for early action from 2008 to 2012 along with expanded activities post-2012. Furthermore, we call for protected areas to be given special consideration by the international community.

We commit ourselves to working together towards the success of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Bali from 3 to 14 December 2007. In this regard, we will work to ensure that the issue of a road map for relevant forest issues is addressed in climate change frameworks, in a manner that is fair, equitable and in the common interest of the tropical rainforest countries.

Fully cognizant of the value of intensified and sustained dialogue and cooperation, we commit ourselves to strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation among the Governments and peoples of the tropical rainforest countries and invite other tropical rainforest countries to actively participate in this cooperative endeavour.

We also reaffirm our support for United Nations forest-relevant processes and frameworks including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.



Amazon river rain forest in Peru

Courtesy: Wikipedia

sectors. Our nations are committed to cooperating among themselves to slow, stop and reverse the loss of forest cover and to promote the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands, forest management and conservation.

We call for the fulfilment of commitments, including those of annex I countries under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to support our

* A/C.2/62/3, adopted in New York, 24 September 2007. Annex to the letter dated 27 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.