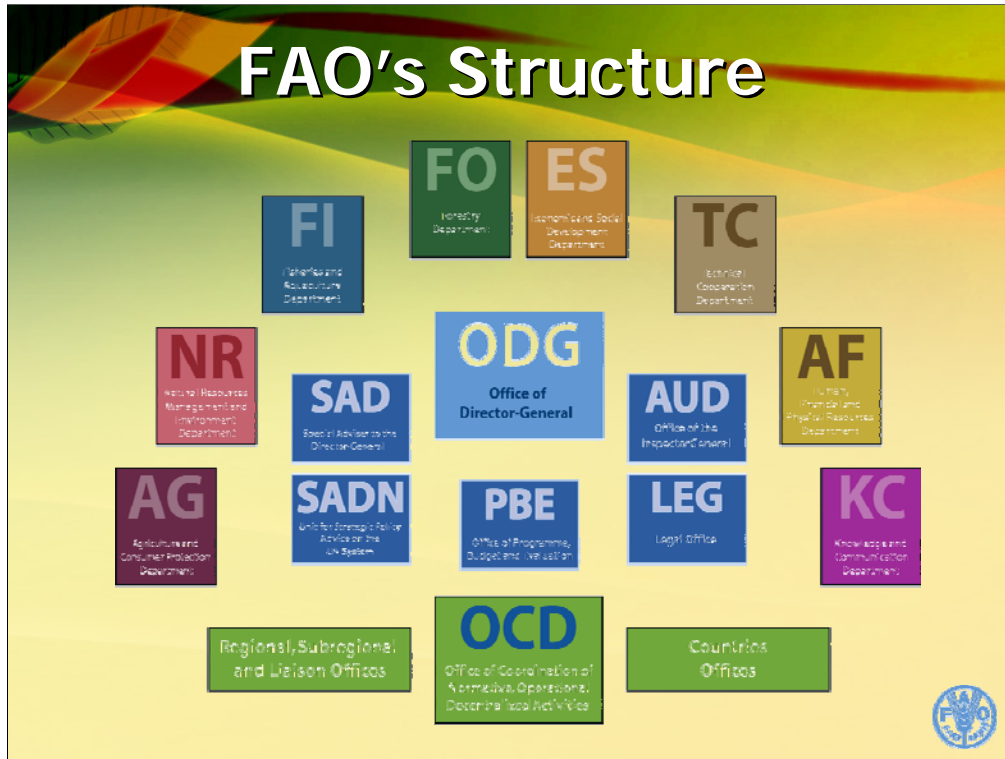


Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. First of all I would like to thank the organisers for inviting the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations to participate in this meeting.

It is a pleasure for me, as Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department, to address an OSCE Forum for the first time. For the benefit of those not familiar with FAO of the United Nations, allow me to briefly describe the Organization that is a Specialized Agency of the UN.



FAO supports member countries in strengthening their agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors. We assist in fostering rural development in order to overcome poverty and hunger. FAO provides data and information on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as well as on land and water issues; it also develops and assists with models, methods, concepts and definitions, provides capacity building, acts as a neutral forum for discussion and negotiation, and assists member countries upon demand in areas of its mandate.

FAO has 189 member countries, Russia being the most recent one to join as full member and then there is one corporate member, the European Union.

Here you can see the different FAO Departments and Offices.



## FAO's Role

- **Repository of data and information, custodian of models and methods**
- **Capacity Building**
- **Neutral Forum**
- **Assistance to member countries**

In addition to collecting and storing data for a range of purposes, and in addition to being a custodian of models and methods we typically provide a neutral forum for discussions and negotiations on issues related to all natural resources and how to use them wisely. Capacity building is one of our core tasks.

Assistance to countries is given as well directly through technical cooperation as through normative work. We provide countries with best practices, guidelines and recommendations. In Europe and Central Asia we co-operate literally with all countries in a range of fields. Typically forest resources monitoring, assessment and reporting, and enhancing national forest policies and programmes are areas of co-operation.

## Regional and Subregional Offices



We have multidisciplinary teams working from a number of hubs around the world, and have additionally representations in over 80 countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, until now, there has been relatively little cooperation between OSCE and FAO in the field of forest management, but I believe we can find some synergies between our activities.

Let me share with you some security relevant forest issues.

# Governance & Security

- **Related to resource management**
- **Forests & conflict**
- **Sustainable forest management**
- **Climate change and forest health**



First, let us consider the inter-relationship between three issues: 1. good governance, 2. sustainable resource management and 3. security. You surely will agree with me that, for satisfactory outcomes, all three are necessary: good governance, combined with sustainable resource management, improves security, while bad governance or insecurity make it hard to manage resources in a sustainable way. There are many tragic examples of situations where conflict and bad governance have damaged forest resources, presently for instance in some African countries. Most recently, damage to forests have been caused by storms, as well as large scale diebacks, accompanied by insect calamities. According to the recently released 4th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the increase in frequency and extent of this kind of damage is linked to climate change.

Some forests, such as the contaminated forests in Ukraine and Belarus, require especially careful management and governance. In FAO, we are keenly aware of the importance of considering governance and security when planning our activities. We also firmly believe that a well managed forest sector makes a significant contribution to social, economic and environmental well-being. Conversely, unsustainable forest management, leading for instance to erosion, over-cutting and rural poverty, can threaten security, especially if combined with other manifestations of bad governance.

# Forest Law Compliance

- **Illegal logging & trade**
- **Understand causes**
- **Implement laws & measures**
- **Public procurement policies**
- **Coordinated action required**



A particular form of lack of good governance linked to the forest sector is illegal logging and trade in forest products. Another example of lack of good governance is the weak forest law compliance, which has been widely recognised as an important contributing factor to forest degradation and forest loss all over the world. Additionally, lack of forest law compliance is often connected with social insecurity. Illegal logging received special attention in the report of the first part of this forum.

FAO, like all major forest agencies, is trying to address the issue of illegal logging and trade in forest products. The first step is to understand the causes, and in particular whether it is “poverty driven” or “profit driven”. Remedies will depend on the answer. There is a wide range of measures which may be appropriate according to the circumstances. Among those measures we have repressive ones, such as more forceful policing, and use of money-laundering laws, or trade measures (“certificates of legality”, public procurement policies). More positive examples of actions are changes to laws and institutions, improved community forest management and supply of alternative fuels to rural areas.



## Coordinated Action

- **FAO & ITTO**
- **EU**
- **FLEG & FLEGT**
- **Best practices**



There is now a well developed body of expertise on forest governance related matters, in FAO, International Tropical Timber Organisation, ITTO , the World Bank, and a number of other agencies and NGOs. At the policy level, there has been several high level conferences on forest law enforcement and governance, most recently in St. Petersburg in December 2005. Countries which have an illegal logging problem are urged to draw up and implement strategies for reducing illegal logging. The EU has a policy on “FLEGT”, Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade, centred on voluntary partnerships between the EU and selected countries.

FAO has published, jointly with ITTO, a study on “Best Practices for Improving Law Compliance in the Forest Sector”, where much of the knowledge gained is synthesized and evaluated. Finally, it is important that policy on fighting illegal logging not be developed in isolation but as part of a national forest programme. National forest programmes are the policy instruments to set the broad lines of development of the sector, based on reliable resource inventory data, analysis and participatory decision making.



However, despite this intense international activity, results have been limited. Lack of funds and, perhaps most importantly, lack of political will and understanding of the damage done to the social and economic fabric of countries by illegal logging has made progress difficult to achieve. The recently concluded Non Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests under the United Nations Forum on Forests highlights forest law compliance as one of the areas where action by countries is needed.

FAO chairs the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), a group of fourteen international bodies, which jointly and as separate organisations participate in the implementation of sustainable forest management - including forest law compliance - under the umbrella of the International Arrangement on Forests.

Remember to note the presence of UNCCD representative, if they are there.



## Forestry in European Organizations

- **UNECE** United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- **MCPFE** Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
- **EC** European Community
- **FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
- **OECD** Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- **EFI** European Forest Institute

**also other such as WB and IUFRO**



In the OSCE region, FAO is working at the regional level on forestry issues in close collaboration with our partners in countries, in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE).

Let me mention also the EU, the OECD, and several bilateral agencies such as the European Forest Institute and the International Union of Forest Research Organisations. I believe that OSCE has significant strengths in the governance field, as well as a strong network of national offices. I would be keen to learn where OSCE, in close collaboration with the other partners mentioned, can contribute to existing joint international efforts to strengthen the sustainable management of the region's forests, and to fight illegal logging. We are looking forward to exploring areas of potential collaboration with OSCE.



**Dekuji**  
**Thank you**  
**Merci**  
**Gracias**  
**Kiitos**  
**Danke**

