Assembly, in June 1997, endorsed the IPF’s outcome and recom-
of Agenda 21, and the outcomes of the IPF and the IFF, in a manner consistent with and complementary to existing international legally-binding instruments relevant to forests.

The resolution sets out six principal functions for the international arrangement on forests to meet its objective:

*(a) facilitate and promote the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action as well as other actions that may be agreed upon; catalyze, mobilize and generate financial resources; and mobilize and channel technical and scientific resources;

*(b) provide a forum for continued policy development and dialogue to foster a common understanding of SFM and to address forest issues and emerging areas of priority concern in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner;

*(c) enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments;

*(d) foster international cooperation, including North-South and public-private partnerships, as well as cross-sectoral cooperation at the national, regional and global levels;

*(e) monitor and assess progress at the national, regional and global levels through reporting by governments, and regional and international organizations, institutions and instruments, and on this basis consider future actions needed; and

*(f) strengthen political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests through: ministerial engagement; liaising with the governing bodies of international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments; and promoting action-oriented dialogue and policy formulation related to forests.

To carry out these functions, the resolution establishes the UNFF as a subsidiary body of ECOSOC and also establishes the CPF to support its work and enhance cooperation and coordination. Other provisions include that the UNFF will: consider, within five years, the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests, with a view to making a recommendation to ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly; and take steps to devise approaches toward the establishment of the CPF, to: facilitation and promotion of implementation; monitoring, assessment and reporting; enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination; fostering international and cross-sectoral cooperation; fostering a common understanding of SFM and addressing forest policy issues and emerging areas; and strengthening political commitment. The informal consultations also addressed the review of the international arrangement on forests to be undertaken in five years.

**INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS**

**INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS:** The inaugural meeting of the CPF met from 4-5 April 2001, in Rome, to formally establish the CPF. At present, the CPF membership is comprised of the eight members of the Interagency Task Force on Forests (ITFF), but will be expanded to include a total of about a dozen international forest-related organizations, institutions and instruments. The Secretariats of the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Global Environment Facility have been invited to join the CPF. The mission of the CPF is to support the work of the UNFF in promoting the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and in strengthening of political commitment to this end. A CPF Network will be established to facilitate interaction and communication with a wide range of other international and regional organizations, including NGOs, the private sector and other major groups. The CPF will develop its work plan following the conclusion of UNFF-1.

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY**

**OPENING PLENARY:** The opening Plenary session for UNFF-1 will begin at 11:00 am in Conference Room 1. Nitin Deai, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, JoAnne Disano, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, Amb. Mubarack Rashidallah, Chair of the UNFF, and Hosny El-Lakany, CPF Chair, are expected to address the Plenary. Following these opening remarks, delegates will adopt the agenda of the meeting and address other organizational matters.