

6 November 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

With this letter I am applying for the position of “Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department”.

It covers three parts:

- General requirements for this position,
- My involvement of FAO’s and international activities
- My road map for implementation.

Regarding General Requirements;

I read the “Vacancy Announcement No. IRC3041” very carefully.

I graduated from Forestry Faculty of Karadeniz (Black Sea) Technical University as Forest Engineer. I got my master degree in Science Program at the same faculty. Then I completed my second master of science on Public Management at Public Administration Institute for Turkey and Middle East.

I participated several national and international training program. In 2013, I attended the executive education program of “Senior Managers in Government” provided by Harvard University.

I have more than 23 years of experience in forestry sector in Turkey. From 1992 to 1998, I worked at the field as Forest Ranger. Then I worked as Engineer and Acting Division Director at General Directorate of Forests (GDF). I worked as Head of Department at General Directorate of Afforestation. I worked with the H.E. Minister as the Chief of the Cabinet for about three years.

From 2007 to 2011, I worked as Deputy Director General (GDF). GDF has roughly 50 thousand employees including more than five thousand Engineers. I was mainly responsible for international cooperation. From 2011 to 2015 I worked at General Directorate of Combating Desertification as Deputy Director General. For last two months I have been working at General Directorate of Nature Protection and National Parks as Forest and Water Expert.

I am very much interested and willing to work with civil society, private sector, local communities, etc. Personally, I am the founder and President of an NGO namely “The Foundation of the People CARing for FUture” www.carfu.org. I have been writing articles mainly on forestry issues.

I have working knowledge of English. I have limited knowledge of French and Arabic.

Involvement of FAO's and Other International Activities

Since from 1998, more than 17 years I have been involved FOA's activities in Turkey and abroad in different ways.

I participated several meetings including FAO forestry statutory bodies (Committee on Forestry and the regional forestry commissions).I served as the Vice Chair of European Forestry Commission, UNECE Forest and Timber Committee. Since 2012 I have been working as the President of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions.

I also followed and participated UNFF and Forest Europe process. I was a member of General Coordination Committee of Forest Europe. I am familiar with the World Forestry Congress.

During my professional life, I always supported Turkey-FAO Cooperation. I was one of the writer of the first draft of FOA-Turkey Partnership Agreement on Forestry signed by the Minister of Turkey and Director General of FAO, Mr. José Graziano da Silva.

I also wrote the first draft of Turkish Cooperation Agency (TIKA) and the Ministry of Forests and Water Affairs' Agreement on Forestry at international level.

Depend on my experiences, I love to work internationally. I visited nearly 50 countries so far, mainly for forestry issues, and I am familiar with forestry organizations and people.

My family (my wife- A Lawyer, and my sons) has no objection, they are fully supporting to work at FAO.

My road map for implementation.

I believe Forestry Department has very good roster of expert. I will try to support them with every possibility.

Forestry issues gaining more importance at international level like Sustainable Developments Goals and others.

Fund raising and cooperation with other stakeholders like civil societies, private sector, local communities will be among my priorities.

Under the supervision of Director General and the Deputy Director-General (Coordinator for Natural Resources), and together with all stakeholders, I will try to sign MoU and DoI with interested countries to increase the visibility of forestry and to find more fund and to support all forestry activities at global, national and local level.

Final Words

I am aware of the importance of this job.

So far, I did not work at an international agency in formal way and this could be seen as disadvantages. But I know each elements of this kind of organization bodies and most of the foresters from FAO know me too. Besides this, I worked in Turkey with strong agencies like GDF at high level positions. I am planning to bring all my experiences and ambitious to FAO and also to harmony with existing activities.

In 2013, I was a candidate for the UNCCD Executive Secretary in short list. Please see the letter of endorsement for this post.

There is good and close cooperation between Turkey and FAO. I am also able to provide a letter of support for FAO signed by relevant Turkish authorities when necessary.

Respectfully yours.

Ismail BELEN

Annexes

1. Annex I. Resume
2. Annex II. Letter of Support for the ES of UNCCD (2013)