

UNFF2 Meeting Summary - 2 August 2001

Informal Consultations meeting on UNFF2

2 August 2001

UNFF Secretariat, DC-2 Building, New York

An informal consultation meeting between the UNFF2 Bureau members and their representatives based in New York, and the UNFF Secretariat (see Annex 1 for the list of participants) was held on Thursday, 2 August 2001. Other Annexes included are the Agenda (Annex 2), a Note on the Preparation for Documentation (Annex 3), a Proposed List of Documentation for UNFF2 (Annex 4) and an updated list of Bureau members (Annex 5).

This meeting was convened to informally review the post-UNFF1 activities and to exchange views on the preparations for UNFF2, the composition of the Bureau, as well as matters related to the organization and documentation for the second session.

1. Bureau Matters
2. Information on the follow-up of the UNFF1 decisions
3. Preparation for the second session of the UNFF
4. Future meetings and consultation process
5. Other matters

Annex 1: List of Participants in the Informal Consultation

Annex 2: Agenda of the Informal Consultation of UNFF2

Annex 3: Note on the Preparation of Documentation and Organization of Work for UNFF Second Session

Annex 4: Proposed List of Documents for UNFF2

2. Information on the follow-up of the UNFF1 decisions

The Secretariat informed the meeting that letters were under preparation from Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary General, to Governments, highlighting important follow-up actions, which need to be taken at the national levels in accordance with the UNFF1 decisions. Such actions included:

- Alerting countries about the high-level ministerial segment and the dialogue between the Ministers and the Executive Heads of the CPF organizations;
- Requesting the appointment of the national focal points for UNFF matters;
- Requesting voluntary country reports on implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action and related experiences; and
- Requesting suggestions on intersessional sessions on the establishment of expert groups, prior to UNFF2, in Costa Rica.

3. Preparation for the second session of the UNFF

3.1 Host country agreement

The Secretariat briefed the meeting about the status of the host country agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Costa Rica. The agreement, drafted by DESA, with the assis/F2 9.nDESA(br)-14ghe en-8-

session. Some participants suggested that additional informal consultations might be required, possibly in New York or at other venues, in conjunction with forest-related meetings.

However, some participants felt that it may be counterproductive to convene the informals in New York since there were unfavourable reactions on this matter during UNFF1, primarily due to the difficulty in bringing experts from capitals to attend an informal meeting in New York. Many participants expressed the importance of having wider rather than limited participation in the informal consultations, and suggested the need to consider another venue. The Secretariat agreed to look through the UNFF calendar of events and propose another alternate and feasible venue for possible informal consultations.

3.4 Documentation

The UNFF Secretariat introduced a Note on the preparation of documentation and organisation of work (see Annex 3) and a proposed list of documents for the second session of UNFF (see Annex 4). The Note and the list provided an approach to integrate, in a simpler manner, the Elements for UNFF2, the Common Items and progress in implementation listed in the adopted Provisional Agenda for UNFF2. The Secretariat explained its rationale in proposing such approach, including the proposed documentation (topics, number and scope of documents, as well as a draft outline for the preparation of the Secretary General Reports), a tentative organisation of work and a proposed scheduling for the second session.

It was stressed that the "Common Items" and "Means of Implementation" should contribute to and be integrated within individual Elements for UNFF2, making the work more focused and easier to manage, without overburdening the agenda. With regard to the list of SG's Reports, it was suggested to have separate SG Reports for all five Elements. However, the Secretariat suggested that some merging might be needed to consolidate the work and to make best use of the very limited time available for UNFF2. The Secretariat also noted that the opening Plenary, the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue, the Ministerial Segment and the Ministerial Dialogue with Heads of CPF member organizations will possibly require 3 out of the 10 days of the UNFF2.

A revised draft Note on the preparation of documentation and organization of work for UNFF2 will be prepared by the Secretariat, after the meeting of the CPF member organizations, to be held in Rome (6-7 August 2001) and will be made available for the next meeting.

4. Future meetings and consultation process

In view of a number of meetings in other fora that were scheduled for in the beginning of September, the participants suggested that the formal Bureau meeting should be convened either at the end of August or in mid September. The UNFF Secretariat would provide the participants and all the Bureau members with an updated calendar of events, maintained by the Secretariat, to facilitate in planning of the future Bureau meetings and informal consultations. During August the Secretariat would receive tentative dates and suggestions on the location for the next Bureau meeting from the Bureau members.

It was also suggested that at least two formal Bureau meetings should be convened prior to the session in Costa Rica.

5. Other matters

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Annex 3

Note on the Preparation of Documentation and Organization of Work for UNFF Second Session *(Working Draft, 31 July 2001)*

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
 2. Main Issues and Documentation
 3. Example: Draft outline for Secretary General report on progress in implementation
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- Annex I: Provisional Agenda for UNFF2

1. Introduction

The purpose of this Note is to initiate the organization of work for the second session of the UNFF according to the adopted Provisional Agenda. (Annex I).

The approved Provisional Agenda for UNFF2 contains 9 Agenda Items. Some of them include a long list of sub-items. Agenda Item 3: Implementation of the proposals for action of the IPF/IFF and the Plan of Action of the UNFF, has 6 sub-items all of them dealing with implementation. Agenda item 4: Common items for each session, has 10 sub-items, which deal with various principal functions of the UNFF, such as: (i) policy implementation (national forest programmes, emerging issues relevant to country implementation, etc); (ii) policy development (trade, intersessional work, etc); (iii) policy coordination (enhanced cooperation and coordination, etc); and, (iv) other issues (multi-stakeholder dialogues).

Out of the 9 items within the approved Agenda for UNFF2, Agenda Items 3 and 4, contain a total of 16 sub-items for substantive discussions, deliberations, negotiations and adoption of decisions to be undertaken during UNFF2. The structure proposed in this Note is an attempt to deal with these sub-items in an integrated manner in view of the limited period of time available during the second session of the UNFF.

Section 2 identifies the main issues and suggests a preliminary list of documents to support the deliberations of the sixteen sub-items. Section 3 presents an example of a proposed draft outline for one of the Reports of the Secretary General on Progress in Implementation (Agenda Item 3.b).

Section 4 suggests the Organization of Work for UNFF2, including the Plenary sessions and the two Working Groups sessions. It is proposed that Working Group I deal with Policy Implementation and Coordination Issues and Working Group II with Policy Development Issues. References are made to possible outputs, as draft decisions, from the Plenary and each Working Group. The scheduling of the proposed organization of work for the second session of the UNFF is presented in section 5.

2. Main Issues and Documentation

Common Items for each session (Agenda Item 4.)	Preparation of Documents
A. National forest programmes (Sub-item 4.h)	SG Report
B. Implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action and UNFF Plan of Action (Item 3) B.1 Country experiences and lessons learned (Sub-item 4.c) B.2 Emerging issues relevant to country implementation (Sub-item 4.d) B.3 Promoting public participation (Sub-item 4.g) B.4 Enabling environment (Sub-item 4.j)	SG Report: Combating deforestation and forest degradation (Sub-item 3.b.i) and rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands, and the promotion of natural and planted forests (Sub-item 3.b.iv) SG Report: Forest conservation and protection of unique type of forests and fragile ecosystems (Sub-item 3.b.ii) and rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover (Sub-item 3.b.iii) (Each document will focus on progress in implementation and means of implementation: finance, transfer of technology, and capacity building) (Item 3.a and b)
C. Monitoring, assessment and reporting (Sub-item 4.f), including concepts, terminology and definition (Sub-item 3.b.v)	SG Report
D. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, inter alia, with the CPF (Sub-item 4.b)	Note from the Secretariat, transmitting CPF's Workplan
E. Intersessional work (Sub-item 4.e)	Non-Paper for Informal Consultations
F. Multi-stakeholder dialogues (Sub-item 4.a)	SG Report plus Addenda
G. Trade (Sub-item 4.i)	SG Report based on matters left pending by the IPF/IFF process.

3. Example: Draft outline for Secretary General report on progress in implementation

Title: SG Report on Combating deforestation and forest degradation, and on rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands, and the promotion of natural and planted forests

Executive Summary

1. Introduction
2. Background
3. Progress in implementation
 - 3.1 Combating deforestation and forest degradation
 - a. ~~Country experiences and lessons learned~~
 - b. Emerging issues relevant to country implementation
 - c. Promoting public participation
 - d. Enabling environment
 - 3.2 Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands, and the promotion of natural and planted forests

4. Proposed Organization of Work

1. Plenary:	Adoption of the agenda, multi-stakeholder dialogue; promoting public participation; high-level segment, including policy dialogue; date and venue for UNFF3; adoption of the report
Suggested output:	Chairman's Summary on multi-stakeholder dialogue; Decisions on: a. promoting public participation; b. High-level segment outcome; c. date and venue for UNFF3;
2. Working Group I:	UNFF Policy implementation and coordination issues: A. National forest programmes; B. Implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action and UNFF Plan of Action, including means of implementation; C. Monitoring, assessment and reporting, including concepts, terminology and definition; D. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, inter alia, with the CPF;
Suggested output:	Decisions on sections A, B, C and D to strengthen national, regional and global implementation in the context of the four elements scheduled for UNFF2, with particular attention to means of implementation;
3. Working Group II:	UNFF Policy development issues: E. Intersessional Work; G. Trade;

5. Proposed scheduling of the Organisation of Work for the second session of the UNFF

Week 1 (4 - 8 March 2002)



Week 2 (11 - 15 March 2002)

Date	Session	10 am - 1 pm	3 - 6 pm
March 11 Monday	Working Group I Policy Implementation and Coordination	Monitoring, assessment and reporting, including concepts, terminology and definition (Agenda item 4.f)	Continue Monitoring, assessment and reporting including concepts, terminology and definition (Agenda item 4.f)
	Working Group II Policy Development	Continue Preparations for the High-level Ministerial Segment (Agenda item 5)	Criteria for Review 2005
March 12 Tuesday	Working Group I Policy Implementation and Coordination		

Annex I. Provisional agenda for the second session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the Plan of Action of the United Nations Forum on Forests:
 - (a) Means of implementation: finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management;
 - (b) Progress in implementation:
 - (i) Combating deforestation and forest degradation;
 - (ii) Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems;
 - (iii) Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover;
 - (iv) Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests;
 - (v) Concepts, terminology and definitions.
4. Common items for each session:
 - (a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue;
 - (b) Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination;
 - (c) Country experience and lessons;
 - (d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation;
 - (e) Inter-sessional work;
 - (f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting;
 - (g) Promoting public participation;
 - (h) National forest programmes;
 - (i) Trade;
 - (j) Enabling environment.
5. High-level ministerial segment.
6. Ministerial dialogue with heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
7. DETTJET if6r p s ftand sooch session of ans Foruent.

Annex 4

Proposed List of Documents for UNFF2

(Working Draft, 30 July 2001)

Document number	Agenda item	Title

Annex 5:

List of the UNFF2 Bureau members and contact person in New York

Country	Member	Contact Person in New York
Costa Rica	Ms. Ana Patricia Chaves Minister Counsellor P.M. of Costa Rica to the U.N. 211 East 43rd St., Room 903 New York, NY 10017 Tel: (212) 986-6373, Ext. 22 Fax: (212) 986-6842 Email: jnl100@aol.com	
Nigeria	Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu Senior Counsellor P.M. of Nigeria to the U.N. 828 Second Avenue New York, NY 10017	