

**United Nations Forum on Forests
Bureau of the Seventh Session (UNFF7 Bureau)
Minutes of the fourth meeting**

UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, New York
10 December 2006 (Sunday)

9:15 – 1:00 PM

One UN Plaza, DC 1 -12th floor Conference room

Participation

Bureau members: Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali, H.E. Mr. Cristian Maquieira, Mr. Arvids Ozols and Mr. Andre-Jules Madingou.

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Mr. Mahendra Joshi, Mr. Jorge Illueca, Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchill, Ms. Afsa Kemitale, Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Ms. Ghazal Badiozamani and Ms. Mita Sen.

Others: Mr. Razif Mubin, Permanent Mission of Malaysia.

The agenda of the fourth meeting of the Bureau were the following:

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Preparation for the joint meeting with focal points of the major groups
3. Adoption of the minutes of the third meeting, held on 12 October 2006
4. Final review of the preparations for the AHEG meeting
5. Joint bureau meeting with ECOSOC Bureau
6. Other Business

Urgent Matters

Mr. Hoogeveen, Chairman of the Bureau of UNFF 7 informed Bureau members of critical matters concerning interpretation availability during the ad hoc expert group (AHEG) meeting. This was particularly due to an unforeseen scheduling of a number of high profile meetings taking place in the Headquarters during that same week. The Bureau discussed the complicated situation resulted from this, and proposed to conduct Monday's session of the AHEG in English only, and try to make every effort to secure interpreters for additional languages. In this regard, it decided to convene a meeting with the Chairpersons of the regional groups on Monday, 11 December at 9 am before the opening of the AHEG meeting, to inform them of the situation and to seek their understanding and support.

2. Joint meeting with focal points of the major groups

The Bureau met with the focal points of major groups at 9:45 am and invited them to exchange ideas on: (a) expected outcome of the AHEG, (b) expected contributions of the major groups in the AHEG meeting, (c) role of major group in the new UNFF mandate.

The Bureau was briefed by the major group focal points on efforts to enhance participation and input from major groups at the AHEG meeting and UNFF7. The focal points also informed

members of preparations they have been carrying out to coordinate inputs to the discussion papers for UNFF7 and for the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue at UNFF7. They raised concerns on how the AHEG would involve major groups and receive their views on the NLBI.

The Bureau encouraged the major groups to provide their inputs to the AHEG meeting and advised the major group representatives to provide joint common concrete recommendations towards the end of each plenary session pertaining to the discussions of the day. The Chair thanked the meeting with the major group focal points at 10:30 am with appreciation.

Opening of the meeting

Mr. Hoogeveen opened the fourth meeting of the Bureau, immediately after the meeting with major group focal points, and welcomed all members of the Bureau and the secretariat.

1. Adoption of agenda

The Chair adopted the provisional agenda circulated in advance without amendments.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the third meeting, held on 12 October 2006

The draft minutes of the third meeting circulated by the secretariat were adopted by the Bureau.

4. Final review of the preparations for the AHEG meeting (11-15 December 2006)

The Bureau exchanged views on the outcomes of regional briefings held on the 8th of December. General observations focused on the inclination of countries to begin discussions promptly on Monday, 11 December, on the basis of the composite draft text and, in general, not to re-open agreed text. In view of possible unavailability of full interpretation services, it was decided to work in a plenary setting throughout the week and to provide smaller rooms for contact groups to discuss specific topics of the composite text, as needed.

The Bureau reviewed the Master Plan for the AHEG and decided to meet every morning at 9 am in the secretariat conference room and, if needed, again at 6:15pm concluding the afternoon plenary sessions (either in Conference Room 2 or 4 depending on the program). It also reviewed the order of events for the opening session of Monday, which included the: election of officers, adoption of the agenda, introduction of the Note by the secretariat (presentation of the compilation of proposals and the composite draft text on NLBI), as well as general statements by groups and individual countries and press/ media activities. The secretariat also presented updates on the panel discussion, composed of high level international law and finance experts, scheduled for the Monday afternoon session. The Bureau agreed that the panel discussion should be helpful to the ad hoc expert group meeting in providing context and clarification on critical issues related to the NLBI.

5. Joint bureau meeting with ECOSOC Bureau

The secretariat informed the Bureau of the meeting to be held between the Chairs of the functional commissions and the Bureau of ECOSOC on 15 January 2007, to which Chairman, Mr. Hoogeveen, has also been invited. The Bureau considered issues to be discussed at the joint meeting. It expressed interest in strengthening closer links between the Bureaus and in integrating substantive topics of ECOSOC programme of work to the MYPOW in order to

provide substantive and coordinated inputs to ECOSOC, in view of the recent General Assembly resolution on strengthening of ECOSOC (E/RES/61/16).

6. Other Business

CPF-related information and activities

The secretariat updated the Bureau on topics to discuss with CPF members during the joint lunch at 1pm. Among these were UNFF priority activities and the planned World Bank study on finance and means of implementation. The Bureau exchanged ideas on the scope of the paper and the course of action for its wider circulation. The Bureau agreed to send a message to the World Bank to work in close collaboration with the secretariat in developing the paper. It would also encourage the CPF members for their continued collaborative support to the work of the UN Forum on Forests, including the continuation of the CPF secondments to the UNFF secretariat.

Revised road map and future meetings of the Bureau

As per regular practice, the Bureau reviewed the updated Roadmap to UNFF7. Members agreed to:

- 1) hold the 5th meeting of the Bureau on 1st of February 2007 in New York to discuss preparation for UNFF 7 and for the Bali CLI. Those unable to make it on the 1st of February would join via tele-conference;
- 2) hold the 6th meeting of the Bureau during the Bali CLI, in Bali, Indonesia (13-16 February 2007). Details regarding the exact date, time and venue will be decided after consulting with the organizers of the CLI.
- 3) hold the 7th meeting of the Bureau in end of March 2007, linking this meeting with the UNFF 7 Bureau informal briefing also proposed for end of March. The Bureau members would soon send the secretariat suggestions for possible dates in order to finalize a date suitable for all members.

Closing of the meeting

Mr. Hoogeveen thanked the Bureau members and the secretariat for their participation in the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm.