

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

UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, New York
12 October 2006

Participation

Bureau members: Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali, Mr. Arvids Ozols and Mr. Andre-Jules Madingou. H.E. Mr. Cristian Maquieira sent regrets, and on his behalf, Mr. Abraham Quezada from the Mission of Chile attended the meeting.

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

Secretary of the Forum: Ms. Vivian Pliner.

Others: Ms. Mira Woldberg, Mission of the Netherlands; and Mr. Razif Mubin, Mission of Malaysia.

3. Preparations for the Open-ended Ad Hoc Expert Group (11-15 December 2006)

Documentation and Informal consultations

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on preparations for the ad hoc expert group (AHEG) meeting, to be held on 11-15 December 2006 in New York. It informed that all three official documents for the AHEG meeting: (i) Provisional agenda; (ii) Note by the Secretariat on developing an NLBI on all types of forests; and (iii) a compilation of proposals and comments on possible contents of an NLBI on all types of forests, have been submitted to the concerned department for translation. The Secretariat is also posting the documents on the UNFF website as an advanced un-edited version.

As per Bureau's suggestion, the Secretariat has prepared a composite draft text of an NLBI, based on country proposals and comments, as well as upon the agreed text from previous resolutions. The Bureau members commended the Secretariat for a good draft which captured the essential elements of an NLBI. The Bureau members agreed to review and provide their comments on the text to the Secretariat by Wednesday, 18 October. The Bureau also agreed that the revised text should be made available to member States, if possible, before the Informal Briefing on the AHEG, to be held on the 3rd of November in New York. Arrangements are being made for the composite draft text to be translated into all the official UN languages, and to make it available as soon as possible. The Bureau members also noted that additional proposals for the NLBI might still come, as some countries are still working and consulting. The Bureau was of the view that any new proposals or ideas may be considered by the AHEG itself during its meeting in December this year.

Organization of work and logistics

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the logistical planning and organization of work for the AHEG meeting. The Bureau agreed to a tentative organization of work, to be presented for the approval of the AHEG during the opening session, consisting of the following:

- The first reading of the whole composite draft text on the NLBI would be done in plenary under the chairmanship of Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, Chairman of the Bureau.
- On the first day, after the opening session and presentation of documents, a panel discussion consisting of international law experts would be held, in order to provide a context.
- Two parallel working groups would start working from Tuesday, 12 December afternoon, on two sets of issues for the NLBI composite draft text.
- The tentative division of responsibilities among the Bureau would be:
 - Working Group 1: Co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Cristian Maquieira and Mr. Arvids Ozols on political and policy parts of the text (Preamble, Sections 1 to 11).
 - Working Group 2: Co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali and Mr. Andre-Jules Madingou on institutional and operational parts of the text (Sections 12 to 24).

Regarding logistics, the Secretary of the Forum confirmed that two conference rooms were available and interpretation will be provided on the basis of "as available".

Nomination of experts and travel support

The Secretariat informed the Bureau of sending requests to the member States through a Note Verbale to the Permanent Missions regarding the nominations of experts for the AHEG meeting and the process for travel support. The deadline to receive nominations is 20th of October.

4. Preparations for the seventh session of the UN Forum on Forests

Revised road map

As per regular practice, the Bureau reviewed the updated Roadmap to UNFF7 and updated the information on forest-related events. The new information included: confirmed date and venue of the Informal Briefing (3 November, New York); date of the COMIFAC meeting (28-30 November); Regional Group Consultations (8 December); and the meeting with Major Group Focal points (10 December).

Organization of work for UNFF7

The Bureau exchanged views on how to organize the work during UNFF7 (16-27 April 2007), based on a provisional organization of work prepared by the Secretariat. It was noted that the division of the work would generally be based on two main issues: the NLBI and the MYPOW. The Bureau would consider this matter in the future meetings.

Follow-up to the last Bureau Meeting decisions

The Secretariat presented some background information for developing a MYPOW, including a chart showing the objective, purpose, principal functions of UNFF and the Global Objectives on Forests. The Bureau also appreciated an update note on the regional dimension that consisted of a detailed list of regional institutions, organizations, instruments and processes that are relevant to forests. The Bureau took note of the need to further develop the ideas related to the Forum's future intersessional activities, to adequately address topical and regional issues. The Bureau also noted that the outcome of the AHEG meeting on the NLBI in December 2006 would facilitate the development of a MYPOW. The Bureau agreed to continue discussion on these issues at the next meeting.

CPF-related information and activities

The Secretariat updated the Bureau on the outcome of the last CPF meeting, held on 29 August 2006 in Rome. The Chair also informed the Bureau members of his recent meeting with the Director-General of FAO and the Head of its Forestry Department. The Bureau expressed its appreciation to the CPF members for their collaborative activities in support of the UN Forum on Forests, and hoped for continued support for the preparation of the AHEG meeting and the UNFF7 session.

5. Other matters

Efforts to guarantee broadest participation of all stakeholders

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on its efforts to enhance the broadest participation and input from major groups at the AHEG meeting and UNFF7. Major group focal points have started

coordinating on the preparation of discussion papers for UNFF7 and for the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue at UNFF7. Discussions also focused on how to improve the involvement of major groups with local authorities in the Forum's work. The Bureau agreed to continue working to promote the broadest participation of all relevant stakeholders, and, in this regard, to meet with the focal points of major groups on Sunday, 10 December.

Financial constraints and fundraising