

**United Nations Forum on Forests
Bureau of the Fifth Session (UNFF 5 Bureau)**

Minutes of the fourth meeting

Friday, 14 January 2005

10:00 – 1:00 PM New York Time (EST)

Participation

Bureau members: Mr. Manuel Rodríguez-Becerra (Chair), H.E. Mr. Rezlan Ishar Jenie, and H.E. Mr. Denys Gauer. H.E. Mr. Francis K. Butagira (from Uganda) and Mr. Adam Craciunescu (from Romania) participated in the meeting by telephone conference. Mr. Vasile Lupu, Advisor to Minister on forest issues, Romania, also joined by telephone conference from Romania.

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Ms. Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist, Mr. Mahendra Joshi, Mr. Peter Csoka and Mr. Jorge Illueca.

UNFF Secretary: Mr. Moncef Khane

Other: Mr. Tri Tharyat, Indonesian Mission, and Ms. Gabriela Tanjala, Romanian Mission.

The second meeting of the Bureau considered the following agenda items:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Preparations for the fifth session of UNFF
3. Informal consultations with regional and/or negotiating groups on the preparations for UNFF5
4. Other business

Opening of the meeting

Mr. Manuel Rodríguez-Becerra chaired the meeting.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda circulated in advance.

2. Preparations for the fifth session of UNFF

The Bureau reviewed the preparations for UNFF and took a number of decisions:

Organization of work

The Chairman would chair plenary sessions and high-level segment as much as practical and Vice-Chairmen would chair the two Working Groups. The Bureau would

take decisions on the division of labour among the Bureau members (for working group chairmanships and rapporteur) at the meeting, to be held in Guadalajara, Mexico. It is decided that this meeting will take place on Wednesday, 26 January 2005 during the breakfast hours.

High-level ministerial segment (25 - 26 May 2004)

The Bureau discussed different approaches to make the high-level ministerial segment (HLS) more effective, interactive and linked to the crucial decision-making process. It is suggested that the HLS be made a real dialogue and that ministers be given opportunity to make their short interventions on the specific topics of the discussions and also to make brief (1 min.) responses to the comments from the floor. The Bureau underscored

Closing of the meeting

Mr. Manuel Rodríguez-Becerra expressed satisfaction with the discussion held at the meeting and thanked the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat, and adjourned the meeting until 3 pm when it met with the Chairpersons of the regional groups and other delegates.

Summary of the meeting with the chairpersons of regional groups of the United Nations in New York (03:00 – 05:00 PM, DC 2 - 23rd Floor)

The Bureau briefed the chairpersons or their representatives and other delegates on the preparations for the fifth session of the Forum. The topics included key decision issues such as the review of effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, future actions and consideration of parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests with view of recommending to ECOSOC and General Assembly, and dates for the high-level ministerial segment at UNFF5. The Bureau underscored the significance of the high-level ministerial segment and urged the delegates to encourage their ministers responsible for forests to participate in the high-level segment. The Bureau and Secretariat also urged the delegates to send national reports and completed questionnaires to facilitate the review process.

The Chairman also informed the delegates that the Bureau has planned to convene an informal consultations meeting tentatively on 28 February 2004 in New York. The Chair will consider distributing a non-paper to facilitate the preparations of member States for the effective dialogue and decision making at UNFF 5. The delegates appreciated the Bureau for convening the briefing meeting.