

**United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
Bureau of the Eighth Session (UNFF8 Bureau)**

**Minutes of the Fifth meeting
(tele-conference)**

21 October (9:00 – 11:00 AM) New York time (EST)

Participation

Bureau members: Dr. Boen M. Purnama, Mr. Arvids Ozols, Mr. Abdellah Benmellouk, Dr. Modesto Fernandez, and Dr. Glen Kile.

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Peter Csoka and Dr. Mahendra Joshi.

Others: Ms. Jan McAlpine (USA) and Mr. Rizal Purnama (Indonesian Mission, New York).

Opening

The Bureau of the UNFF8 convened its fifth meeting through tele-conference.

The meeting was held on 21 October 2008 at 9:00 AM (EST) via tele-conference. Participants included: Dr. Boen M. Purnama (Indonesia), Mr. Arvids Ozols (Latvia), Mr. Abdellah Benmellouk (Morocco), Dr. Modesto Fernandez (Spain), Dr. Glen Kile (USA), Mr. Peter Csoka (UNFF Secretariat), Dr. Mahendra Joshi (UNFF Secretariat), Ms. Jan McAlpine (USA), and Mr. Rizal Purnama (Indonesian Mission, New York).

As decided earlier, the Bureau would lead the AHEG meeting. As such, Mr. Purnama as Chairman, would chair the opening and closing sessions. Teams of two Vice-Chairs would chair the remaining meeting sessions in alternate order.

3. Bureau meetings

The Bureau would meet in Vienna on Sunday, 9 November, to review the final preparations for AHEG. The Secretariat would inform the Bureau about the venue and time of the meeting. It was further suggested that the Bureau would meet every evening during the AHEG.

4. Briefing to the delegations in New York

The Bureau decided to brief the national delegations based in New York about the preparations for the AHEG. Mr. Benmellouk, with support from the Secretariat, would conduct the briefing on Monday, 27 October. The Bureau welcomed the planned briefing by the co-sponsors of the Suriname CLI on 27 October on the outcome of the CLI meeting, held in Paramaribo on 8-12 September, and decided to coordinate the two briefings.

5. Other matters

- The Bureau congratulated Ms. Jan McAlpine for her selection to the position of Director of the Secretariat, and hoped for her recruitment to finalize as early as possible.
- The Secretariat updated the Bureau on participation and documentation status as well as other practical logistic matters in writing, due to shortage of time to cover this issue during the teleconference.