

UNFF Secretariat, New York

Monday, 29 September 2003 (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Attendee

Bureau Members: *Mr. Yuriy N. Isakov (Chairperson-designate), Mr. George W. Talbot (Guyana), Mr. I Gede Ngurah Swajaya (Indonesia), Mr. Xolisa Mabhongo (South Africa) and Ms. Stephanie J. Caswell (United States of America)*

: Pekka Patosaari, Jorge Illueca, Mahendra Joshi, Susan Braatz, Kyaw Kyaw Shane and Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist

: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma

: Mr. Oleg Shamanov, PM of the Russian Federation

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

Adoption of the agenda

Nomination of a Bureau member from GRULAC

UNFF-related resolution and decisions of the substantive session of ECOSOC, held in July 2003

Preparations for the ad hoc expert groups meetings

First and second ad hoc expert groups meetings

Third ad hoc expert group meeting

Other business

Opening of the meeting

Mr. Yuriy N. Isakov chaired the meeting. He welcomed all the members to the first face-to-face meeting.

The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda provided to the members by the Secretariat in advance.

states, CPF members, Bureau and the Secretariat have to address in the next six months, including the nomination of experts, providing country and CPF member views, on a set of issues outlined in ECOSOC resolution 2003/299; the compilation of such views for informal consultation by the Bureau with member states and a short note outlining these preparations for UNFF 4.

The Bureau recognized that the issues mandated to the third expert group are politically sensitive. The Secretariat would present to the Bureau the suggestions concerning the submission of views by the Member States on the matter. The Secretariat recommended that the available and best-suited date for the meeting of this group will be in August/September 2004.

The Secretariat will present to the Bureau members a draft note addressing various aspects of planning for the meeting of this expert group by 13 October.

5. Other matters

The Bureau members decided that the next Bureau meeting would be held on Tuesday, 18 November 2003 in New York.

The Secretariat also conveyed a message from the Chair of CPF, Mr. Hosny El-Lakany from FAO, assuring CPF members' commitment to support UNFF. The Bureau expressed its appreciation to Mr. El-Lakany and CPF members for their excellent support to the work of UNFF.

During the course of the meeting, Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo, new USG of economic and social affairs, met briefly with the Bureau and exchanged ideas and information about DESA and UNFF. Mr. Ocampo reassured the Bureau of DESA's support to this important UN body. He suggested a need to look at forests and forest issues through a holistic and cross-seJ-18r2UFagF Tc manneg forests to the economic and social priorities such as poverty reduction. He viewed the three ad hoc expert groups