

United Nations Forum on Forests
Minutes of the second meeting of the UNFF10 Bureau
2 November 2011-New York

Participation

Bureau members: Mr. Mario Ruales Carranza (Ecuador), Mr. Srecko Juricic (Croatia) Ms. Shuli Davidovich (Israel), and Mr. Saiful Azam Martinus Abdullah (Malaysia)
Ms. Masinga, the Bureau Member from Zambia was not able to attend the meeting

UNFF Secretariat: Ms. Jan McAlpine, and the UNFF staff

Secretary of the Forum: Ms. Vivian Pliner was not able to attend the meeting.

Others: Mr. Joan Andres Salvador (Ecuador) and Ms. Zalwani Zalkaply (Malaysia)

Opening of the Meeting

Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director of the UNFF Secretariat, welcomed Bureau members to the secretariat. Mr Ruales, Chair of the UNFF10 Bureau, in his opening remarks thanked the Bureau members for their attendance, as well as the UNFF Secretariat for organizing the meeting. He informed that Ms. Masinga, the Bureau member from Zambia, was not able to attend this meeting due to the need for her to address some urgent issue in her home country. On behalf of the Bureau of UNFF10, he also expressed solidarity with the Government of Turkey over the tragic earthquake in that country. The Chair then presented the provisional agenda for the second meeting to the Bureau, which was adopted. The agenda of the second meeting of the Bureau included the following items:

- 1- Preparations for the tenth session of the UNFF:
 - i. ECOSOC Decision on the dates and venue of UNFF10
 - ii. Main issues on the agenda of the tenth session
 - iii. Documentation
 - iv. ECOSOC Decision on submission of the UNFF9 Ministerial Declaration to Rio+20, and the related action by the UNFF10 Bureau Chair
 - v. UN Inter-Departmental Coordination and meeting with Turkish Delegation during the General Assembly
 - i. Note Verbale to Member States
 - ii. CPF/AGF (work plan, OLI, donor countries support...)
 - iii.

of the final documents in all official languages. The Bureau members expressed their satisfaction with the preparations for the tenth session of the UNFF.

iv. ECOSOC Decision on the submission of the UNFF9 Ministerial Declaration to Rio+20, and the related action by the UNFF10 Bureau Chair

ECOSOC in its decision 2011/248 decided to transmit the UNFF9 Ministerial Declaration to the General Assembly for its endorsement, as a contribution of UNFF to the Rio+20 Conference. In this connection, a letter was sent by the Chair of the UNFF10 Bureau to the Co-Chairs of the Rio+20 Preparatory Process and to Mr. Sha, the Secretary General of the Conference in September 2011, informing them of the adoption of the Declaration by UNFF9, as a contribution to the Rio+20 conference.

The Bureau also stressed the need for a follow-up action at the 2nd committee of the General Assembly, in response to the ECOSOC decision on this matter. With regard to the formality of submission of the Declaration, the Bureau agreed to work through Member States to ensure that the UNFF9 Ministerial Declaration is going to be transmitted officially by the 2nd Committee to the Rio+20 conference. To this end, it was agreed that the delegation of Ecuador (Chair of the UNFF10) prepare a procedural decision in the Second Committee, and for other members of the Bureau support the speedy action on this matter.

v. UN Inter-Departmental Coordination on UNFF10 and meeting with Turkish Delegation during the General Assembly

The Bureau was also briefed on the state of coordination with the Government of Turkey and within different UN departments and offices, in preparing a host country agreement for the UNFF10 session, and was informed that a mission to Istanbul is planned for early January 2012. The Bureau members expressed their satisfaction with the preparations for the tenth session of the UNFF, and requested the Secretariat to keep the Bureau informed of all related developments.

vi. Development Account Project: Strengthening national reporting capacities of countries

Regarding national reporting to UNFF10 on implementation of the forest instrument, the Secretariat made a presentation on the ongoing project to strengthen national reporting in support of the implementation of the forest instrument (FI). This project is funded through the UN Development Account. The three main objectives of the project include: strengthening and
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iii. Closing ceremony for the International Year of Forests

Under this agenda item, the Bureau was briefed on the latest status of available resources for its future meetings as well as the secretariat staff situation. The UNFF Director communicated specifically with donor countries, requesting them to provide support for travel of the Bureau members to its meeting. Today, only Finland has provided limited financial support. This amount, however, is not adequate to cover upcoming meetings of the Bureau, and more resources are needed.

In regard to UNFF staffing, the UNFF Director reminded the Bureau that, while there are increasing tasks for the UNFF secretariat, the staffing falls far shorter than what is needed. In this context, she referred to the special situation of the UNFF secretariat this year, as a result of departing staff and budget cuts. To address partially the problem, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs wrote a letter to the CPF heads, encouraging secondment to the UNFF secretariat. Fortunately, FAO has agreed to second a junior staff, and ITTO is also going to second a short-term consultancy for UNFF.

The Bureau commended the quality work done by the secretariat and took note of the report on the staffing situation of the secretariat as well as the available resources left for the Bureau travels. The Bureau members also accepted the challenge to convey this message to donors and to their respective governments, in order to encourage them to provide resources to the UNFF Trust Fund. The Bureau also considered a teleconference as a possible way to diminish the impact of lack of travel support for Bureau members.

Closing of Meeting

Mr Ruales Carranza, Chair of the UNFF10 Bureau, thanked the Bureau members and the Secretariat for their participation in the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.