

Minutes of the Third Meeting of the UNFF14 Bureau

3 May 2019 (11:20 13:10)

UNHQ, New York

Participation

Bureau Members: Mr. Boris Greguška (Slovak Republic, Chair), Mr. Rob Busink (The Netherlands), Mr. Khalid Cherki (Morocco),

Summary of Key Actions/Decisions

- 1. The Bureau agreed that the UNFF14 Report should include as an annex containing (i) a summary of technical discussions, including proposals, for transmission to UNFF15 and (ii) the 2019 High Level Political Form on Sustainable Development (HLPF).*
- 2. The Bureau agreed to adjust the UNFF14 provisional organisation of work in order to bring forward discussion of item 10 (Information on the reform of DESA pertaining to UNFF)*
- 3. The Bureau noted the proposal that UNFF15 would take place in New York, from 4 to 8 May 2020.*

Mr. Boris Greguška, Chair of the UNFF14 Bureau, welcomed members of the Bureau, the Secretary of the Forum and the Secretariat to the third meeting of the UNFF14 Bureau. The provisional agenda was agreed.

1. Update on the final preparations for UNFF14

a) Reviewing the organization of work of UNFF14, including the arrangements for the opening session, panel discussions, side events, outcome of the session.

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the provisional organisation of work for UNFF14 and noted that since UNFF14 is the first full technical session of the Forum, the outcome document would be a Report containing, as an Annex, the Chair's summary of discussions. The Bureau agreed that this summary would be in two parts. Part 1 of the Chair's summary would capture key points emerging from the technical discussions, including proposals, for transmission to UNFF15 in 2020, together with indicative list of intersessional activities. Part 2 of the Chair's summary would contain the Forum's input to the 2019 HLPF in the format suggested by the ECOSOC President. A draft of the Chair's summary would be distributed in advance of the Forum's meetings on Friday 10 May.

Mr. Busink expressed concern about the proposed timing of discussion of item 10 (Information on the reform of DESA pertaining to UNFF) in view of the two letters submitted to the USG requesting an update on this subject, one by the UNFF14 Bureau and one by Australia on behalf of a number of countries. Due to the importance of this subject, he considered that this discussion should take place before Friday 10 May. Accordingly, the Bureau agreed to amend the organisation of work in order to open this item with a statement from DESA on Monday 6 May and to hold further discussion of this item on Thursday 9 May. The Chair noted that he would be meeting with USG in the afternoon.

Mr. Cherki asked about progress with regard to voluntary national contributions (VNCs). The Secretariat explained that a number of countries were proposing to announce their VNCs during UNFF14, that a repository of VNCs had been created on the UNFF website, and that the Note by the Secretariat on implementation of the UNSPF had suggested developing a template for VNCs and a synthesis showing their contribution to specific global forest goals and targets.

On the development of the UNFF programme of work 2021-2024, the Secretariat noted that the Forum may wish to propose inter-sessional consultations on the programme of work for the four-year period beyond 2020.

Following a question from Mr. Busink about development clearing house of the GFFFN during the coming year, the Secretariat stated discussions under item 5 would provide an opportunity for UNFF14 participants to propose relevant inter-sessional activity.

b) Division of work among Bureau members

The Bureau noted that the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRLAC) was expected to nominate its representative on the UNFF14 Bureau at the opening session on Monday 6 May.

The Bureau agreed that Mr. Greguška would chair the sessions on Monday 6 May and Friday 10 May. The sessions on Tuesday 7 May would be chaired by the GRLAC representative, in the morning, and Mr. Busink, in the afternoon. The sessions on Wednesday 8 May would be chaired by Mr Cherki, in the morning, and Mr. Momeni, in the afternoon. The sessions on Thursday 9 May would be chaired by Mr. Busink, in the morning, and Mr. Cherki, in the afternoon.

The Bureau agreed to propose that Mr Khalid Cherki should be the Rapporteur for UNFF14.

c) Nomination of the Members of UNFF15 Bureau

The Bureau noted that, while most members of the UNFF14 Bureau were likely to continue to serve as members of the UNFF15, it was expected that GRLAC would nominate a different representative for the UNFF15 Bureau.

2. Preparation for UNFF15

a) Date and venue of UNFF15

The Bureau noted the proposal that UNFF15 would take place in New York, from 4 to 8 May 2020.

b) Provisional agenda of UNFF15

The Bureau noted that the provisional agenda for UNFF15 would be based upon the Quadrennial Programme of Work for 2017-20 and that it might also be necessary to include an item on DESA reform.

3. Other matters

Mr. Busink highlighted the importance of the proposed UNFF flagship publication and shared a document that had been drafted by Australia, Canada and New Zealand and endorsed by WEOG. The Bureau agreed to distribute this document electronically to UNFF14 participants prior to the discussion of item 4 (on monitoring, assessment and reporting). The Bureau noted that any suggestions regarding intersessional work during UNFF14 would be captured in the Chair's summary.

The Secretariat noted that a meeting with contributing countries to the UNFF Trust Fund had been arranged for Thursday 9 May in order to mobilize extra-budgetary funding for the upcoming intersessional activities.

The Chair reported on his participation at the Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held in Copenhagen in April 2019. He had participated in a panel session but was disappointed that the outcome document had not reflected the contribution of forests more strongly. The Bureau and

Mr Zhu stressed the continuing need to champion forests and actively promote the role of the UNSPF as a reference framework for forest-related activities among United Nations bodies and partners.

The role of the Secretariat in the Climate Action Summit to be convened by the UN Secretary General on 23 September was also raised. Mr Zhu noted that preparations were being led by the Special Envoy for Oceans and that DESA's focus was on social dimensions. It was noted that forests should/could be highlighted in the context of the "nature-based solutions".

The meeting closed at 13:10 pm