

United Nations Forum on Forests
Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Twelfth Session
21 July 2016 (1:00 – 3:00 pm), Finnish Meeting Room, FAO HQ, Rome

Participation

Bureau Members: Mr. Peter Besseau (Canada), Ms. Clarissa Souza Della Nina (Brazil),
Mr. Wu Zhimin (China), Mr. Tomas Krejzar (Czech Republic)

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, Ms. Mita Sen,
Mr. Tomasz Juszcak

Others: Ms. Natalie Benešová (Czech Republic)

Summary of Key Actions/Decisions

- 1. Secretariat will prepare the first draft of the provisional agenda and organization of work of UNFF12 for discussion of the Bureau at its 3rd meeting in Bangkok in October 2016.**
- 2. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on the margins of AHEG2 in October 2016, and if needed a teleconference in September 2016.**

Provisional Agenda

Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Twelfth Session

21 July 2016 (1:00 – 3:00 pm), Finnish Meeting Room, FAO HQ, Rome

- 1- Adoption of the provisional agenda**
- 2- Status of funding for AHEG2 and the Forum's Working Group**
- 3- Preparations for UNFF12**
- 4- Update on the outcome of the CPF Retreat, as well as upcoming events**
- 5- Next meeting of the Bureau**
- 6- Other matters**

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Peter Besseau, Chair of the UNFF12 Bureau, opened the meeting and welcomed members of the UNFF12 Bureau and the UNFFS Director and staff.

2. Adoption of the provisional agenda

The Bureau agreed that under agenda items 3 and 4, it would receive a progress report by the Secretariat in regard to the preparation of the building blocks for the IAF Strategic Plan; and get information on the role and responsibilities of the UNFF Bureau, as well as an update on the election of the African Bureau member.

3. Status of funding for AHEG2 and the Forum's Working Group

The UNFF Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the current status of funding for AHEG2 in October 2016, and the UNFF Working Group in January 2017. The Secretariat noted that pledges towards funding for AHEG2 were expected from Finland, the Netherlands and Switzerland. But, the pledged resources have not yet been credited to the UNFF Trust Fund. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that to date, about 50 requests for travel support had been received. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the expected pledges will hardly cover the travel costs for the nominated eligible experts. In this regard, the Secretariat informed that if this situation does not change, there will be no interpretation services at the AHEG2 and the meeting can only be conducted in English.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat and stressed that if for financial constraints, the AHEG2 was going to be conducted only in English, participants should be informed in advance.

Regarding funding for the Working Group, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that to date no pledges have been received for this meeting. It was also noted, that interpretation and conference services for the Working Group meeting were covered by the regular budget of the UN, so the main fund-raising requirements were for travel of participants which was estimated at \$250,000.

The Bureau noted the importance of raising funds for both of these upcoming meetings in order to enable the widest participation of countries in these important discussions.

In regard to the preparation of the building blocks and options for the IAF Strategic Plan and quadrennial programme of work, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the AHEG Co-Chairs had a meeting in NY on this matter and their proposal would be sent by the end of July to Member States and stakeholders.

4. Preparations for UNFF12

With regards to the question raised on the role and responsibilities of the Bureau, the Secretariat noted that the Secretary of the Forum, Mr. Moncef Khane is the appropriate source to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the UNFF Bureau, as per the rules and procedures of the UN. Nevertheless, the key role of the Bureau generally is to ensure sound preparation and organization of the upcoming UNFF Session. Regarding the composition of the Bureau, the UNFF Secretariat informed the Bureau that a nomination from the African regional group to the UNFF12 Bureau is still pending. The Secretariat added that perhaps a follow up letter by the Secretary of the Forum to the African Group can expedite the process of nomination of African member of the Bureau.

The UNFF Secretariat briefed the Bureau on key elements in preparations for UNFF12 including development of the provisional agenda; draft organization of work; key items for decision by UNFF12; and documentation. It was noted that the Strategic Plan and quadrennial programme of

work would be critical in determining many of these elements, at the same time, there were routine elements of UNFF sessions, issues emanating from the UNFF11 resolution, and elements related to reporting on implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and providing input to the HLPF which would need to be taken into account. In this regard, a preliminary list of issues that could be included in the organization of work of UNFF12 was provided to the Bureau.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the explanation and the above-mentioned list. Some Bureau members noted the importance of discussing the organization of work of UNFF12, after the adoption of the IAF strategic plan and the quadrennial programme of work. Some Bureau members also stressed the need for UNFF12 to focus on the implementation of the IAF Strategic Plan and quadrennial programme of work; contribution of the UNFF to the SDG process and the work of the HLPF; and review of the work of the GFFFN in the work of UNFF12. Other Bureau members also noted the importance for UNFF12 to discuss forest-related major global development, and to provide a venue for engagement of stakeholders including financial community in its work. Nonetheless, Bureau members emphasized that important components of the UNFF12 agenda and its organization of work can only be finalized after the completion of the work of the Working Group of the Forum in January 2017 and the adoption of the IAF Strategic Plan and the quadrennial programme of work.

In light of the discussion, the Secretariat was tasked to prepare the first draft provisional agenda and organization of work for consideration of the Bureau at its next session in Bangkok.

5. Update on the outcome of the CPF Retreat, as well as upcoming events

The UNFF Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the key outcomes of the CPF retreat held in June 2016. All CPF members were present at this meeting, many of them represented with the heads of organization. One of the main issues in the agenda of this meeting was preparation of the CPF work plan in support of the work of the IAF. The CPF members agreed on a timeline for preparation of the work plan in the coming months. In regard to the input for the IAF strategic plan, there would be no joint CPF input to this process. However, some CPF members may send their individual inputs.

The Secretariat also briefed the Bureau on the convening of two expert meetings prior to AHEG2; the first of which will be held in Tehran and will focus on gathering views and suggestions from regional and subregional organizations and processes on how to enhance their engagement in the work of the IAF, and the second of which will be held in Ottawa to gather views on how major groups and other stakeholders can enhance their participation and contributions to the IAF. The outcomes of these meetings would be provided to the AHEG2.

6. Next meeting of the Bureau

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting in October 2016 in Bangkok and in the margins of AHEG2, and, if needed, a teleconference in September 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.