

United Nations Forum on Forests
Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Bureau of the Twelfth Session
20 January 2017 (7:00 - 9:00 pm), UNHQ, New York

Participation

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

Secretary of the Forum: Mr. Moncef Khane

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Mr. Hossein Moeini Meybodi, Ms. Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild, Ms. Mita Sen, Mr. Ryo Nakamura

Others: Amb. Hans Hoogeveen (Working Group Co-Chair, Netherlands), Ms. Carlota de ABV Ramos (Brazil), Mr. Zhong Zheng (China), Ms. Natalie Benešová (Czech Republic)

Summary of Key Actions/Decisions

- 1. The Bureau agreed to continue to work to advance preparations for UNFF12, taking into account the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the Forum 2017-2020, adopted at the Special Session.**
- 2. The Bureau agreed to invite a limited number of select high-level representatives from the private sector, particularly from industries and philanthropic organizations, to participate in UNFF12.**
- 3. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting in conjunction with UNFF12. The Bureau also agreed to continue to work to advance the remaining UNFF12 issues, including the finalization of the organization of work, through electronic means, as and when necessary.**

Provisional Agenda

Fourth Meeting of the Bureau of the Twelfth Session

20 January 2017 (7:00 - 9:00 pm), UNHQ, New York

- 1- Adoption of the provisional agenda**
- 2- Update by the Co-Chairs on the work of the UNFF working group**
- 3- Preparations for UNFF12**
 - a. Nomination of the African Bureau Member to the UNFF12 Bureau**
 - b. UNFF12 issues/documentation/organization of work**
 - c. Travel of representatives from eligible countries to UNFF12**
- 4- Update on the upcoming events**
 - a. Expert Group Meeting on MAR**
 - b. ECOSOC-related events**
- 5- Next meeting of the UNFF12 Bureau**
- 6- Other matters**

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda

Mr. Peter Besseau, Chair of the UNFF12 Bureau, welcomed members of the Bureau and the Secretariat to the fourth meeting of the UNFF12 Bureau held in conjunction with the Working Group and the Special Session of the Forum held at UNHQ, New York.

The provisional agenda of the fourth meeting was adopted.

2. Update by the Co-Chairs on the work of the UNFF working group

The Bureau invited Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, Co-Chair of the Forum's Working Group, to provide an update on the work of the Working Group.

The Co-Chairs underscored the significance of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF), adopted at the Special Session on the basis of the proposal submitted by the Working Group along with the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the Forum (4POW) for the period 2017-2020, highlighting its universal and UN system-wide nature, the inclusion of the six Global Forest Goals and its 26 associated targets, including a numerical target on forest area, roles and responsibilities, as well as means of implementation, involving all partners and stakeholders at all levels.

The Bureau welcomed the outcome of the Working Group and expressed its appreciation to the leadership of its Co-Chairs. The Bureau stressed the importance to capitalize on the momentum generated by the successful conclusion of the Working Group and the Special Session, and initiate and promote the implementation of the UNSPF.

The Secretary informed that the Council is scheduled to meet in April 2017, at which point the Council may wish to consider approving the UNSPF and the 4POW for 2017-2020, and recommending the General Assembly to adopt the UNSPF and replace the reference to the MDGs with the SDGs in the UN Forest Instrument.

3. Preparations for UNFF12

a. Nomination of the African Bureau Member to the UNFF12 Bureau

The Secretary of the Forum informed the Bureau that the nomination from the African Group of its bureau member to the UNFF12 Bureau continues to remain pending, and that he would remind the African Group to submit the nomination as soon as possible.

With respect to the election of officers, the Secretary informed the Bureau that the Forum shall elect its Bureau at the commencement of its first meeting of UNFF12, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the ECOSOC Functional Commissions.

b. UNFF12 issues/documentation/organization of work

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on possible elements and components for the organization of work of UNFF12, as well as decisions that need to be considered at UNFF12 in accordance with the ECOSOC resolution 2015/33, noting the need to update the provisional agenda and organization of work in line with the agreed UNSPF and 4POW. With regard to documentation, the Secretariat updated the Bureau on the latest status of preparation of UNFF official documents and informed that most of the documents will be finalized by the end of February 2017. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the official documents for the upcoming session of the Forum include two Secretary-General reports and three Notes by the Secretariat. These documents will provide the basis for discussion at the Forum on: implementation of the

UN Strategic Plan for Forests, monitoring, assessment and reporting; means of implementation for sustainable forest management; enhanced cooperation on forest-related issues; and the Forum's trust fund.

The Bureau held a discussion on possible issues and decisions to be considered at UNFF12, taking into account the outcome of the Working Group and Special Session of the Forum. The Bureau considered options for the modality and format of the meeting, including a possibility to hold parallel meetings during UNFF12, to maximize interaction among participants and ensure sufficient time for discussion.

The Bureau also discussed ways to enhance the participation and involvement by the private sector in the work of the Forum. The Bureau agreed to invite a limited number of select high-level representatives from the private sector, particularly from industries and philanthropic organizations, to participate in UNFF12, and seek a possibility to organize a special event on promoting business action for forests in conjunction with UNFF13, taking into account financial implications of holding such an event within and outside the UN premise.

In this regard, the Secretariat was requested to prepare concise key messages on the importance of engagement by the private sector and philanthropic organizations to assist the Bureau in further planning of such initiative.

c. Travel of representatives from eligible countries to UNFF12

The UNFF Secretariat informed the Bureau on the current status of the UNFF trust fund. It was informed that no pledges have been received for UNFF12, to date. It was added that the funding requirements for UNFF12 are mainly related to travel of eligible participants, estimated at \$250,000 for 55 participants.

The Bureau noted the importance of raising funds in a timely manner to enable the widest possible participation of countries in UNFF12.

4. Update on the upcoming events

The Secretariat provided an update on the upcoming and recent events, including: i) Expert meeting on reporting to UNFF (7-10 February, Brasilia, Brazil); ii) Retreat of the ECOSOC President (20-21 January 2017, New York); and iii) Meeting of the ECOSOC Bureau with the Chairpersons of the ECOSOC Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies (20 January, New York).

The Bureau members informed their respective availability to participate in the expert meeting on reporting to UNFF. The Chair of the Bureau briefed other members on his participation in the meeting of the ECOSOC Bureau with the Chairpersons of the ECOSOC Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies, highlighting the need to work closely with the ECOSOC and HLPF.

5. Next meeting of the Bureau

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting in conjunction with UNFF12. The Bureau also agreed to continue to work to advance the preparation for UNFF12, including the finalization of the organization of work, through electronic means.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.