

United Nations Forum on Forests
Minutes of the First Meeting of the Bureau of the Twelfth Session
27 April 2016 (6:30-8:00 pm), DC2-2330, UNHQ, New York

Participation

Bureau Members: Mr. Peter Besseau (Canada), Mr. Wu Zhimin (China), Mr. Tomas Krejzar (Czech Republic)

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, Ms. Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild, Mr. Peter Gondo, Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchill, Ms. Mita Sen, Ms. Njeri Kariuki, Mr. Benjamin Singer, Mr. Ryo Nakamura, Mr. Tomasz Juszcak, Mr. Ryosuke Ujihashi

Deputy Secretary of the Forum: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma

Others: Mr. Hans Hoogeveen (AHEG Co-Chair, the Netherlands), Mr. Thiago Medeiros da Cunha Cavalcanti (Brazil), Ms. Natalie Benešová (Czech Republic)

Summary of Key Actions/Decisions

- 1. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting in conjunction with the 23rd Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry scheduled from 18-22 July 2016 in Rome, Italy, to be followed by meetings on the margins of AHEG2.**

Provisional Agenda

First Meeting of the Bureau of the Twelfth Session

27 April 2016 (6:30-8:00 pm) - DC2-2330, UNHQ, New York

- 1- Introductory remarks by the UNFF Director**
- 2- Introduction of the UNFF12 Bureau Members**
- 3- Adoption of the provisional agenda**
- 4- Progress report on the work of the AHEG on the development of the IAF Strategic Plan and the 1st 4POW**
- 5- Preparation for UNFF12:**
 - i. Date and venue of UNFF12**
 - ii. Update on the UNFF12 provisional agenda and documentation**
- 6- Next meeting of the Bureau**
- 7- Other matters**

1. Introductory remarks by the UNFF Director

Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Director of the UNFF Secretariat, opened the meeting and welcomed members of the UNFF12 Bureau. He expressed the readiness of the Secretariat to support the work of the Bureau in ensuring a successful organization of UNFF12. He further informed that the candidate for a Bureau member from Africa is yet to be nominated by the African States.

2. Introduction of the UNFF12 Bureau Members

Mr. Peter Besseau, Chair of the UNFF12 Bureau, introduced himself and invited the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat's staff to introduce themselves. The Chair then highlighted the importance of teamwork to fulfil responsibilities accorded to the Bureau and the Secretariat in order to ensure successful preparation and organization of UNFF12.

3. Adoption of the provisional agenda

The provisional agenda of the first meeting was adopted.

4. Progress report on the work of the AHEG on the development of the IAF Strategic Plan and the first 4 year programme of work (4POW)

The Chair of the UNFF12 Bureau invited the AHEG Co-Chairs to report on progress made on the work of the AHEG on the Strategic Plan of the IAF and the first Quadrennial Programme of Work (4POW) during its first meeting (AHEG1). It was noted that Ambassador Gholamhossein Dehghani, AHEG Co-Chair, was unable to join the meeting due to other commitments.

Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, AHEG Co-Chair, reported that the discussions during AHEG1 generated many ideas and valuable inputs on the elements, components and actions for inclusion in the IAF Strategic Plan and the 4POW for 2017-2020. Based on the discussions of the AHEG1, as well as the outcome of the Tokyo Expert Panel and the consultants' paper, the AHEG Co-Chairs will provide their initial proposed options and building blocks on the IAF Strategic Plan and the 4POW. Views and inputs from Member States and stakeholders will be then solicited on this initial proposal. Based on the feedbacks from countries and stakeholders, the AHEG Co-Chairs will revise their proposal and will resubmit it in advance of AHEG2. The timelines of these activities are subject to confirmation of the dates for AHEG2.

The Bureau thanked the AHEG Co-Chairs for their excellent work and welcomed the progress made during AHEG1. The Bureau emphasized the significance of this work for the future of the IAF and offered its full support to the work of the AHEG Co-Chairs in developing the IAF Strategic Plan and the first 4POW.

On the date and venue of AHEG2, the Secretariat explained that due to unavailability of conference services in October in New York, they would contact various UN offices outside of New York, to determine availability of conference services and related costs. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the cost of AHEG2 includes travel support for eligible country experts, conference services and interpretation in three UN languages. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that there are currently no resources available to cover costs related to AHEG2. In this regard, extrabudgetary resources will be required to enable organization of AHEG2, with broad participation of members of the Forum.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for this information and emphasized the importance of ensuring wide participation of countries and stakeholders in the upcoming UNFF-related meetings and intersessional activities. In light of the offers of support expressed by some donor countries during AHEG1, the Bureau expressed its hope that sufficient extra budgetary resources would be provided by donor countries, as soon as possible, to cover the costs of travel of eligible experts and interpretation in three languages so as to facilitate the discussions at AHEG2. The Bureau also requested the Secretariat to consult with the AHEG Co-Chairs on the date and venue of AHEG2 and provide the relevant information to the Bureau as soon as possible.

The Bureau also considered the possibility of holding regional coordination meetings, within their respective regional groups, prior to AHEG2, including through (i) electronic means, (ii) meeting(s) to be organized by regional and subregional organizations in their respective regions and (iii) short meeting(s) immediately before the start of the AHEG2.

The Bureau discussed the preparations for the Working Group and Special Session of the Forum, including the nomination of the Co-Chairs of the Forum's working group. The mandate of the working group is specified in paragraph 44 of resolution 2015/33. Since the mandate of the working group, as per paragraph 44 of the resolution, also includes consideration of the proposals of the AHEG on the IAF strategic plan and the 4POW for 2017-2020, some members of the Bureau expressed their wish that the current AHEG Co-Chairs could be re-nominated as the Co-Chairs of the working group, as this would ensure continuity and avoid any interruption in the process. The Deputy Secretary of the Forum explained that a note verbale inviting nominations for the Co-Chairs of the Working Group would be sent out by the Secretary of the Forum to all Member States of the Forum. The UNFF Secretariat would also send out other relevant information about intersessional activities to all Member States of the Forum.

The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that resources would be needed to fund the travel of country representatives to the meeting of the Forum's Working Group in January 2017 and UNFF12 in May 2017. The Secretariat reiterated that without travel support, these meetings would not benefit from broad and wide participation from all Member States of the Forum.

The Bureau emphasized the need to fund eligible participants for the Working Group and UNFF12 to ensure a wide and balanced representation of countries at these meetings, and expressed the wish that new extrabudgetary funds would be made available by donor countries, as soon as possible.

5. Preparation for UNFF12

i. Date and venue of UNFF12

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the availability of conference services for UNFF12 at UNHQ in New York in the weeks of 15-19 or 22-26 May 2017. The Secretariat stressed that, apart from these dates, there was no other time slot available for the meeting of UNFF12 in New York in 2017.

The Deputy Secretary of the Forum added that the ECOSOC will take a decision on the date and venue of UNFF12 in due course.

The Secretariat will consult with the Bureau on the dates, keeping in mind the preference expressed by Bureau members to schedule UNFF12 in one of the two above-mentioned time slots that has no conflict or less conflict with scheduled meetings of other member organizations of the CPF.

ii. Update on the UNFF12 provisional agenda and documentation

The Secretariat provided updates on the preparations for UNFF12. The Secretariat noted that while preparatory work for UNFF12 has been underway since the conclusion of the UNFF11, the eventual IAF Strategic Plan and the first 4POW will guide the preparation of the UNFF12 provisional agenda and documentation. The Secretariat will continue to update the Bureau on this matter regularly.

6. Next meeting of the Bureau

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting in conjunction with the 23rd Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry to be held from 18-22 July 2016 in Rome, Italy. Following that, subsequent meeting would take place on the margins of the AHEG2, as well as through electronic means when deemed necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.