

**Summary of the informal briefing  
(Monday, 5 March 2007, 1:15 – 2:45 PM)**

**Informal briefing to exchange ideas with member States on the preparations for UNFF7**

The Chair informed the delegates about the discussions and decisions of the Bureau, which met for its seventh meeting, earlier that morning. He informed delegations how the Bureau was working with the Secretariat to develop a revised text in support of the deliberations on the MYPOW, to reflect issues raised at the Bali Country-led initiative (CLI). This includes the idea to prepare a draft text on the MYPOW along the lines adopted for discussions on a NLBI. The chair explained that the process in preparing a draft text on the MYPOW would be done in a balanced way, given that not all countries were present at Bali.

The Chair briefed the delegates on the preparations for UNFF 7, in particular, the conference room facilities, logistics, documentation, and details of the organization of work, including two special events: 1) the launch preparations for the International Year of Forests 2011, and 2) a panel discussion among the Chairs of the Governing Bodies of CPF partners. The Chair highlighted that a tentative organization of work would be made available on the UNFF website.

The Secretariat provided additional information on UNFF 7 documentation, and highlighted that documents have been available on the UNFF website since early January as advance, unedited versions. The Secretariat also informed delegates that official UNFF 7 documents would be available in all languages by mid-March, 2007. Link: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session.html>

The Secretariat also thanked all donor countries who have contributed to the UNFF trust fund for UNFF 7 matters, and for previous fundraising efforts. Countries in a position to do so were urged to contribute generously and repeatedly. The Secretariat stressed that funds provided have helped immensely to provide travel support for participants from developing countries and countries in transition.

The increasing and growing interest over the years in holding side events at UNFF sessions was mentioned. The Chair informed delegations that due to the nature of this session, side events would be limited to only one/two per day during lunch time. The last day of UNFF 7 will not encompass a side event. He was supportive and mindful of the valuable contribution of side events, and encouraged delegates to dedicate time to attend these events.

H.E. Ambassador Adiwoso (Indonesia) presented highlights of the Bali CLI on the MYPOW. Copies of the co-Chair's summary report were distributed to delegations present, and delegates were informed that the report was also available on the UNFF website. She also announced that a side event on the CLI would be organized during the first week of UNFF 7.

The Chair invited delegations to ask questions on the preparations of UNFF 7. Questions focused on the availability of interpretation and conference rooms in the evenings (after 6pm). The Chair confirmed that both were available. Several delegates also requested the Secretariat to consider having early registration, starting Sunday, April 15. The Chair took note of the recommendations, and thanked delegations for their participation and feedback.

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