

**United Nations Forum on Forests
Bureau of the Seventh Session (UNFF 7 Bureau)**

Minutes of the Seventh Meeting

5 March 2007 (Monday)
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
One UN Plaza, DC 1 – 1235
New York

Participation

Bureau members: Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali and Mr. Arvids Ozols

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Mr. Mahendra Joshi, Mr. Jorge Illueca, Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchill, Ms. Afsa Kemitale and Ms. Catalina Santamaria

Secretary of the Forum: Ms. Vivian Pliner

Others: Mr. Razif Mubin, Permanent Mission of Malaysia, and Ms. Falastin Shaktur, Permanent Mission of Chile

The agenda of the seventh meeting of the Bureau was the following:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the sixth meeting, held in Bali on 14 and 16 February 2007
3. Preparations for the seventh session of the UN Forum on Forests, including the outcome of the Bali Country-led Initiative
4. Preparations for the Bureau's briefing on 5 March 2007 (*1:15pm to 2:30pm*)
5. Other matters

Opening of the meeting

Mr. Hoogeveen chaired the sixth meeting and welcomed all members of the Bureau and the Secretariat.

1. Adoption of agenda

The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda circulated in advance without amendments.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the sixth meeting, held in Bali on 14 and 16 February 2007

The draft minutes of the sixth meeting circulated by the Secretariat were adopted by the Bureau.

3. Preparations for the seventh session of the UN Forum on Forests, including the outcome of the Bali Country-led Initiative

The Bureau reviewed documentation, logistics and the organization of work for the seventh session of the UNFF.

3.1 Status of Documentation

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the status of documentation, and informed members that all documents have been posted on the website and are currently being translated. The members reacted to the documents and expressed a positive view on the process and state of all documentation for UNFF 7.

3.2 Other documents

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the preparations of a draft text on the MYPOW as requested by the Bureau at the 31 January and Bali meetings. The draft text draws from the SG's report on the MYPOW, the background papers prepared for Bali and the co-chair's summary report of the Bali CLI. Members agreed that the ideas coming out of the Bali CLI are rooted in the suggestions provided in the background paper prepared by the Secretariat, and thus complement the Secretary General's Report on the MYPOW. They expressed the usefulness of preparing a draft text so as to weave in ideas that emerged from the Bali meeting, to advance discussions prior to, and provide a firm basis for, negotiations at UNFF 7 on the content of the new MYPOW. The bureau decided to seek feedback on this process from the delegates at the briefing, to be held in New York the same Monday afternoon, on preparations for UNFF 7.

Decisions:

- The Bureau members would provide their comments on the draft text to the Secretariat by Friday, 9 March. Based on those comments and suggestions, the Secretariat would revise the draft.
- By the end of March, the draft text with explanatory note should be circulated by the Bureau members to respective member States in their regional groups.
- The draft text with explanatory note will be presented at UNFF 7 as a background document. The explanatory note would explain the basis and justifications, including how the MYPOW would relate to the NLBI.

3.3 Organization of work for UNFF7

The Bureau reviewed the organization of work for the seventh session of the Forum (16-27 April 2007), and made revisions on the events and working groups schedule for the first week.

The Secretary of the Forum (Vivian Pliner) confirmed that a total of three rooms would be available for UNFF 7. In regard to logistics, she informed the Bureau that interpretation services would be available for the official meetings (plenary and working groups) only during the normal working hours. Given the new grounds pass requirement, the Bureau also considered how to facilitate the registration process, and requested the Secretariat to look into the possibility of beginning registration from Sunday afternoon (15 April).

Decision:

- Division of labor for working groups to be addressed at the eighth meeting of the Bureau, on 15 April 2007, when all Bureau members would be present.
 - The Secretariat will contact the UN Pass Unit to examine the possibility of requesting its services for Sunday afternoon, 15 April, for delegations to register one day before UNFF 7.

4. Preparations for the Bureau's briefing on 5 March 2007 (lunchtime)

The Bureau reviewed the programme and issues to be discussed during the informal briefing. The Bureau would brief the delegates on the logistics, planned organization of work, documentation, travel support

and special events (such as launching of the preparation of the International Year of Forests, panel of the chairs of governing bodies of CPF and multi-stakeholder dialogue). Focus would be given on the negotiation process for the NLBI and MYPOW.

The Secretariat confirmed the participation of H.E. Ms. Adiyatwidi Adiwoso from the Mission of Indonesia to present the outcomes of the Bali CLI.

5. Other matters

5.1 Bureau structures

The Secretariat presented the revised information note on the structures of the bureaus of the functional commissions and the Rio Conventions. The Bureau stressed the need to ensure continuity in the Bureau's work. In the context of UNFF's new MYPOW and increased workload, the Bureau was of the view that the size of the Bureau may need to be increased to ten members, for better representation and involvement of regions and sub-regions. However, it was acknowledged that any change in Bureau structure would need a new decision at UNFF 7, and subsequent endorsement by ECOSOC.

Decision:

- The Chair of the Bureau would write letters to the Chairmen of the regional groups, requesting countries to take a decision at UNFF 7 regarding the Bureau's composition. The letters would inform the groups that the new Bureau would be of a two-year term, due to the biennial session of the Forum after UNFF 7, and it would also include a proposal for nominating two members per region to form a ten-member Bureau.

5.2 FAO COFO 2007

The Chair informed the Bureau of an invitation from FAO to him, to address the opening of the Committee on Forests (COFO) on 13 March 2007. The Bureau welcomed the invitation and decided to take this opportunity to inform and engage the COFO delegates on UNFF matters. Among the ideas that emerged from the meeting, the elements of his message to COFO included:

- 1) improving system-wide coherence on forest policy issues, and sending consistent messages with those of the UNFF,
- 2) demonstrating and supporting implementation of the NLBI and the work of the UNFF, and
- 3) supporting the International Year of Forests 2011 and its implementation, in coordination with the UNFF Secretariat.

Other ideas included the role of forests in responding to challenges of climate change and linking forests to the broader development agenda, through the four Global Objectives on Forests of the UNFF.

5.3 The World Bank study on Means of Implementation (MoI)

The Secretariat has received an assurance from the World Bank that the first draft of the World Bank/PROFOR study on means of implementation would be available to it for review on Wednesday, 7 March. The Bureau expressed the view that this study needs to be focused on the core issues of MoI under discussion at UNFF 7. The Bureau advised the Secretariat to review the draft report carefully, once it is made available, and to provide pertinent feedback to the Bank.

5.4 Revised roadmap

The Bureau reviewed the roadmap, confirmed the date of the next meeting, on Sunday, 15 April 2007, and activities taking place in different regions prior to UNFF 7.

Decision:

- Following the bureau meeting on Sunday, 15 April, a joint light lunch would be held with the Bureau, CPF and major groups.
- The Bureau would brief the CPF and major groups after the lunch.

Closing of the meeting

Mr. Hoogeveen thanked the Bureau members for their active participation, and the Secretariat for its support and preparation for the meeting.

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