

**United Nations Forum on Forests  
Bureau of the Fifth Session (UNFF 5 Bureau)**

**Minutes of the third meeting**

*Thursday, 11 November 2004*

*10:00 – 1:30 PM New York Time (EST)*

**Participation**

**Bureau members:** Mr. Manuel Rodríguez-Becerra (Chair), H.E. Mr. Rezlan Ishar Jenie, and H.E. Mr. Francis K. Butagira. Mr. Adam Craciunescu and H.E. Mr. Denys Gauer sent regrets. Mr. Olivier Lacroix from the French Permanent Mission participated on behalf of Mr. Gauer.

**UNFF Secretariat:** Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Ms. Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist, Mr. Mahendra Joshi, Mr. Peter Csoka and Njeri Kariuki.

**Others:** Ms. Lotta Tähtinen, representing UNFF Secretary, Mr. Tri Tharyat, Indonesian Mission

The second meeting of the Bureau considered the following agenda items:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Preparations for the fifth session of UNFF
3. Follow-up to the ad hoc expert group on “parameters”
4. Other business

**Opening of the meeting**

Mr. Manuel Rodríguez-Becerra chaired the meeting. He welcomed the members of the Bureau in particular, the newly nominated member from Asia Group, H.E. Mr. Rezlan Ishar Jenie, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the UN. The Bureau acknowledged the messages from the members, Mr. Denys Gauer and Adam Craciunescu, for their inability to attend the meeting. Mr. Hosny El-Lakany, CPF Chairman, sent his regrets for not being able to participate in the meeting.

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda circulated in advance.

**2. Preparations for the fifth session of UNFF**

Mr. Patosaari briefed the Bureau members on the preparations for the fifth session of UNFF. The Bureau reviewed the preparations for UNFF and took a number of decisions:

*Organization of work*

Bureau expressed satisfaction with the preparations and adopted the overall draft plan for the organization of work over the two-week period. It would take decisions on the division of labour among the Bureau members at a later date.

#### *High-level ministerial segment (HLS)*

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau of the preparations for the High-level ministerial segment (HLS). The invitations to the ministers responsible for forests as well as the official letters through the Permanent Missions in New York for the HLS at UNFF 5 have been sent out.

The Bureau expressed its satisfaction to the proposed scope and structure of the HLS. The HLS will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, 25 and 26 May 2004. The focus of the HLS will be on the review of the IAF and contribution to ECOSOC and GA on the review of the Millennium Declaration and other summits and conferences. HLS would also include dialogue with CPF and high representatives of the major groups (no separate MSD at this session). These issues can be covered in plenary sessions with moderators.

A half-day of round table discussions with facilitators on emerging and cross-sectoral issues impacting forests will also be held. These round table discussions would also include CPF heads and high representatives of the major group. There could be two parallel roundtables with two main themes: (a) Restoration of the World's forests, and (b) Forests, Conflicts and Governance. The Bureau will continue to further consider the topics and detailed programme in the next meeting.

The Secretariat will consult and make a proposal for the consideration of the Bureau about the persons as keynote speakers and moderators among the ministers and from the international organizations.

#### *Documentation*

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the status of the preparations of the documentation for UNFF 5, and that the documents should be ready as advanced unedited English text as early as mid- March 2005. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the preparation.

### **3. Follow-up to the ad hoc expert group on “parameters”**

The Bureau discussed the outcomes of and follow-up to the third ad hoc expert group of UNFF on “consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests”, held in New York (7-10 September 2004).

#### *Informal consultations*

The Bureau decided that to advance the understanding among member States and to maintain momentum of the outcome of the third ad hoc expert group, informal consultations on UNFF 5, particularly as regards to the future international arrangement on forests would be necessary. Accordingly, it will conduct the following activities:

The Bureau plans to brief regional groups and negotiating groups in New York in early January on the organizational and procedural matters regarding UNFF 5.

In late February a one-day informal consultations meeting will be convened in New York. Prior to that, the negotiating groups will again be briefed. The Bureau Chair will be preparing a non-paper to facilitate the informal consultations.

#### *Mexico-US initiative*

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau of the on-going preparations of the Mexico-US initiative as a country-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the future of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), which will be held on 24-28 January 2005 in Mexico. The Secretariat participates in the Steering Group of the initiative and has been providing technical advices on organizational matters. The initiative is highly relevant to the work of UNFF 5 and expected to be a useful input to it. The sponsoring Governments have expressed their desire to have the UNFF Bureau present in the meeting in Mexico.

#### **4. Other business**

##### *Next bureau meeting*

The following tentative dates for the next meetings are indicated:

Mid-January: A telephone conference to finalize the programme of work (HLS) and the preparations on informal consultations

During Mexico meeting (24-28 January): A meeting should be held if all members would be present, otherwise an exchange of views among the members who would be present at the meeting.

25 or 28 February in New York: Bureau meeting and informal consultations.

The Chair will consult with the members to finalize the dates in the following weeks.

##### *Informal briefing to delegates on UNFF 5*

The Bureau will discuss later on the date for the informal briefings to the groups and the member States in New York.

##### *Collaborative Partnership on Forests activities*

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Recently it has submitted its collective response to the UNFF Questionnaire on the review of the IAF.

##### *Country- and Organization-led initiatives*

The Bureau was briefed on the planned country- and organization-led initiatives in support of UNFF.

### **Closing of the meeting**

Mr. Manuel Rodríguez-Becerra expressed satisfaction with the discussion held at the meeting and thanked the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat, and concluded the meeting.