

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

14 February 2007 (Wednesday) and 16 February 2007 (Friday)
1:00 - 2:00 PM
Nusa Dua Beach Hotel
Bali, Indonesia

Participation

Bureau members: Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali, Mr. Arvids Ozols, and Mr. Andre-Jules Madingou

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Mr. Mahendra Joshi, and Ms. Catalina Santamaria

Others: Mr. Razif Mubin, Permanent Mission of Malaysia

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

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the fifth meeting, held on 31 January 2007
3. Bali Country-led Initiative: Review of the work-in-progress
4. Preparations for the Bureau's dialogue with CLI participants on 16 February 2007
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 fifth meeting, held on 31 January 2007

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

3. Bali Country-led Initiative: Review of the work-in-progress

14 February 2007 – Wednesday

The Bureau members reviewed progress of the country-led initiative, in particular the discussions in the working groups, including the feedback to the UNFF Secretariat's keynote paper on the multi-year programme of work (MYPOW). The issues discussed, and that emerged as critical issues in the three working groups, included: means of implementation; intergovernmental preparatory meetings; implementation of the Global Objectives on Forests and

the NLBI; UNFF functions of policy dialogue, development, coordination and reporting; inputs from regional processes and the interface between the regional and the international levels. It was felt that discussions were primarily focusing on separate pieces of the MYPOW, which prevented participants from seeing the full picture of the Forum's future work. The Bureau decided to continue engaging itself in the CLI discussion, including the Chair, to clarify its view on the need to incorporate a certain interface approach during the inter-sessional period between the UNFF sessions.

The Bureau decided to resume the discussion on this agenda item once the CLI concluded on 16 February, and continued to address other items of the agenda.

16 February 2007 - Friday

The Bureau held a common view that the CLI successfully provided a much-needed opportunity for a preliminary exchange of ideas concerning the new MYPOW. It helped shape a clearer understanding of the key elements of the MYPOW that would need consideration, and set the process in motion towards how to proceed from now until UNFF 7. Members also expressed the usefulness of the Secretariat's keynote MYPOW paper in igniting new ideas and informing participants of the key issues of the Forum in the coming years. The Bureau members, however, also expressed their concerns regarding the wide range of views recorded on possible themes for the MYPOW. On the other hand, they expressed satisfaction on the discussion outcomes concerning preparatory meetings and the regional approach.

To help advance the work of UNFF 7 in developing the MYPOW, it was suggested that the Bureau consider possible elements of the CLI summary report, complementing the Secretary General's Report on the MYPOW, to help develop a draft resolution text on the MYPOW. The Bureau agreed to inform the Members of the United Nations about this undertaking at the 5 March briefing on preparations for UNFF 7 in New York.

It was also suggested that the briefings on 5 March provide an opportunity for the Indonesian Mission to concisely highlight the output of the CLI.

4. Preparations for the Bureau's dialogue with CLI participants on 16 February 2007

At the bureau meeting of 14 February, the Bureau exchanged views on the main points it would present to the CLI on 16 February concerning the revised composite draft text for developing a non-legally binding instrument (E/CN.18/2007/3). During the dialogue with the CLI participants on the morning of 16 February, it informed participants of the revised draft text's availability on the UNFF website, and of the convening of informal briefings to delegates in New York on the 5th of March. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction about the feedback received from participants on the release of the revised draft composite text, and the transparency when handling the matter.

5. Other matters

5.1 Other documents for UNFF 7

The Secretariat circulated a Note by the Secretariat on Enhanced Cooperation and Policy and Programme Coordination, and briefed the Bureau on its content. The Bureau expressed its support of the content of the Note. It commented on the importance of enhanced cooperation and its relevance to the MYPOW, and to broader UN efforts in system-wide coherence.

5.2 Revised Roadmap

The Bureau also reviewed the Roadmap to UNFF 7. Members agreed to hold the seventh meeting of the Bureau on 5 March 2007 from 9am -1pm in the UNFF Secretariat conference room. The date and venue for the African meeting was also clarified (3 - 4 April 2007, Libreville, Gabon). It was agreed that an outline of the draft text and a detailed time frame of the process to develop the MYPOW draft composite text would be emailed to the members before 5 March.

5.3 Other issues

The Secretariat circulated a note on the composition and modalities of the UNFF Bureau to maintain some continuity in the succeeding bureaux, efficient functioning during the intersessional periods, etc. After a brief exchange, the Bureau decided to continue discussion at the next meeting. The Secretariat would present a revised note at the next Bureau meeting.

Closing of the meeting

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