

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

Minutes of the Fifth meeting

Tuesday, 25 January 2004

7:30 – 6:30 PM (CST)

Hotel Presidente InterContinental, Guadalajara, Mexico

Participation

Bureau members: Mr. Manuel Rodríguez-Becerra (Chair), H.E. Mr. Rezlan Ishar Jenie and H.E. Mr. Denys Gauer

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Jorge Illueca and Mr. Mahendra Joshi

Others: Mr. Hosny El-Lakany (Chair, CPF), Mr. Tri Tharyat (Permanent Mission of Indonesia), Ms. Andrea Alban (Co-chair of the Mexico-US County-led Initiative)

Mr. Manuel Rodríguez-Becerra chaired the meeting. The Bureau discussed and took decisions on the following points:

1. Planning for the fifth session of UNFF (16-27 May 2005)
2. Preparations for informal consultations on the preparations for UNFF5
3. Other business

1. Planning for the fifth session of UNFF (16-27 May 2005)

1.1 Division of work among the Bureau members

The following division of responsibility among the Bureau members was provisionally agreed:

Plenary sessions: Mr. Manuel Rodríguez-Becerra

Working Group 1: Mr. Denys Gauer for agenda item “Progress and future actions” and Mr. Adam Craciunescu or his alternate for the agenda item: “Enhanced cooperation”

Working Group 2: Mr. Rezlan I. Jenie for agenda item “Review of the effectiveness” and Mr. Francis Butagira for “Preparations for HLS”

Rapporteur: Mr. Rezlan I. Jenie

1.2 High-level segment (HLS)

Mr. Jenie informed the bureau that the Minister for forests from Indonesia will participate in the HLS. He will also speak as a keynote speaker for the roundtable on forests, conflict and governance.

2. Preparations for informal consultations on the preparations for UNFF5

2.1 Chairman's non-paper

The Chairman decided to postpone the idea of presenting a non-paper on the critical issues confronting the fifth session. He informed that he will continue to consult with the Bureau members and participants at the Guadalajara CLI meeting and closely observe the developments this week and decide if such a non-paper is needed to advance the consultative process.

2.2 Letters to Permanent Missions on informal consultation meeting

The Bureau discussed about whether there was a need to convene an informal consultation as tentatively scheduled on 28 February 2005 in the context that the Chairman's non-paper would not be presented and discussed at that informal consultation meeting. The Bureau decided to convene the informal consultation as planned which would focus on the preparations for UNFF5 and its HLS. The Chairman, in his letters to the Permanent Missions, would clearly specify the scope of the informal consultation so that the delegations have clear understanding of its purpose.

3. Other business

3.1 Next meeting dates

The Bureau decided to convene its next meeting in Rome during the FAO COFO meeting in mid March 2005. Mr. El-Lakany would send invitations to the Bureau to COFO.

3.1 Other matters of interest

The Secretariat informed the Bureau of a request from ECOSOC for a joint bureau meeting between the two bodies, preferably during the second week of the UNFF5 session. This has been a practice to exchange information between the two bureaux. The ECOSOC Secretariat has requested to propose a possible date for such a meeting. The Bureau welcomed the idea of a joint meeting to discuss about the status of negotiations and suggested the Secretariat to tentatively propose Tuesday, 17 May 2005 morning (before the start of the day's meetings) for the joint Bureau meeting. Considering the heavy agenda and anticipated intensity of negotiations in the second week, the Bureau realized that holding such a meeting on the second week would not be feasible.