

**United Nations Forum on Forests
Bureau of the Ninth Session (UNFF9 Bureau)**

Minutes of the Third Meeting

Tuesday 2 March 2010
UN Forum on Forests Secretariat
One UN Plaza, DC 1 – 1235, New York

Participation

Bureau Members: Mr. Arvids Ozols, Mr. Ingwald Gschwandtl, Mr. Raymond Harold Landveld, Mr. Zainol Rahim Zainuddin, and Mr. Ndiawar Dieng.

UNFF Secretariat: Ms. Jan McAlpine, Mr. Mahendra Joshi, Mr. Peter Csoka, Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, Mr. Alhassan Attah, Ms. Barbara Tavora Jainchill, Ms. Afsa kemitale, Ms. Mita Sen, Ms. Njeri Kariuki, Mr. Benjamin Singer, Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Ms. Sylvia Chen, Ms. Rui Zhang, Ms. Ninon Thermidor, and Ms. Edith Niamke

Secretary of the Forum: Ms. Vivian Pliner.

Others: Ms. Zalwani Zalkaply (Permanent Mission of Malaysia), Mr. M. Mame Baba Cisse (Permanent Mission of Senegal) and Mr. Andreas Brandstatter (Permanent Mission of Austria).

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

- 1- Briefing on the joint meeting of the ECOSOC Bureau and the Chairpersons of functional commissions
- 2- The UNFF Strategic Work Plan on Forest Financing
 - a. Preparation for the first meeting of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG)
 - i. Date and venue
 - ii. Working modality including appointment of officer (s)
 - iii. Work program including pre AHEG1 activities
 - iv. Documentations for AHEG1
 - b. Update on the work of the Facilitative Process
- 3- Preparations for the Ninth Session of the UN Forum on Forests:

- a. Documentations and the expected outcomes
- b. Proposed Initial Work Program including for the HLS
- c. Comprehensive road map of activities leading to the UNFF9 including calendar of major events

4- Recent and upcoming events

- a. CPF activities
- b. Upcoming CLIs in 2010
- c. MDG Summit and Rio+20
- d. UNFCCC COP 16 and REDD+ activities
- e. International Year of Forests

5- Future meetings of the Bureau

6- Other matters

- a. Staffing of UNFFS, and Trust Fund including travel support for the Bureau

Adoption of the agenda

Mr. Arvids Ozols, Chair of the UNFF9 Bureau, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed members of the UNFF9 Bureau and the participating staff members of the secretariat. He then proceeded with the adoption of agenda for the meeting.

1. Briefing on the joint meeting of the ECOSOC Bureau and the Chairpersons of functional commissions

Mr. Ozols provided a brief summary report on the annual joint meeting of the ECOSOC Bureau and the Chairpersons of the functional commissions. The joint meeting of the ECOSOC Bureau and the chairpersons of the functional commissions was held on 29 Jan. 2010 in New York. The Chair of the UNFF9 Bureau, Mr. Arvids Ozols, accompanied by Ms. McAlpine and secretariat staff, participated in the meeting. The main agenda for this meeting was to discuss the inputs that the functional commissions could provide to the theme of this year's Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) on gender equality and empowerment of women. Other issues, in particular with regard to enhancing cooperation and coherence between ECOSOC and its functional commissions were also discussed. Mr. Ozols informed the Bureau that he earlier provided the UNFF input on this matter to the ECOSOC. In addition, he informed the Bureau that he made a statement during this meeting, and emphasized the importance for functional commissions to help discussion of their superior body, ECOSOC, to be as effective as possible. Mr Ozols mentioned that in his statement he stressed the need for a mutually beneficial cooperation between ECOSOC and its functional commissions through which key issues of concerns for the

functional commissions would also be reflected in the ECOSOC outcomes. Ms. McAlpine also informed the Bureau that the statement of Mr. Ozols was received very well by the ECOSOC President, and generated a live and positive atmosphere followed by questions and answers.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the report by Mr. Ozols and thanked him for his active participation in the meeting.

2. The UNFF Strategic Work Plan on Forest Financing

Ms. Jan McAlpine informed the Bureau that after the adoption of the resolution on means of implementation by the special session of the UNFF9, and pursuant to Bureau's emphasis on the need for thorough preparation for the UNFF work on forest financing, the secretariat started preparing a four year work plan (2010-2013) for implementation of the resolution. Ms. McAlpine further added that the UNFF Strategic Work Plan on Forest Financing was prepared for consideration by the Bureau. She mentioned that the Work Plan follows the approach of the resolution and paves the way for active involvement of all key stakeholders in the process, aiming at enabling the UNFF10 to decide on the issue of forest financing. The Work Plan aims at full involvement of relevant stakeholders from the forest and non-forest sectors alike, in particular those carrying finance and planning responsibilities. Ms. McAlpine stressed that the Strategic Work Plan would tap the potential of Member States, CPF member organizations, forest regional processes, forest-related financial mechanisms and processes in the work of the Facilitative Process (FP) and the AHEG. She expressed hope that through this extensive preparation the UNFF10 would be able to make a lasting decision on forest financing that would make a real change and be recognized as a win-win solution for all. Such a decision would provide critical input to the 2015 review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAFs), and contribute to achieving the MDGs.

a. Preparation for the first meeting of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG)

The secretariat staff presented a power point on the UNFF Strategic Work Plan on Forest Financing. The secretariat emphasized that the Work Plan anticipated an active role for governments, forest regional processes, the FP, the secretariat and the CPF Advisory Group on Finance (AGF), as well as for other relevant stakeholders. The secretariat underlined that the objective of the Work Plan was to ensure the implementation of the Resolution in its entirety. The Strategic Work Plan includes two official AHEG meetings. However, it also covers three periods, namely, the periods before AHEG-1, between AHEG-1 and 2, and potentially following AHEG-2 and before UNFF10. In this regard, the Strategic Work Plan contains a four-year plan for the AHEG and the FP, and the ways and means to involve key stakeholders in the work on forest financing. It also includes issues and the timing for concrete inputs from Member States, the AGF/CPF, forest regional processes and other stakeholders.

On the proposed date and venue for the AHEG-1, the secretariat referred to the discussion during the last meeting of the Bureau on the preference to have the first meeting of AHEG in Nairobi or Santiago, and to organize the working modality of the AHEG-1 in a non-traditional manner. The secretariat informed the Bureau that the first half of September 2010 was basically the only opportunity before UNFF9 for holding the AHEG-1, and after checking with various UN venues, Nairobi was the only place that could offer conference services during that period. Therefore, the first meeting of the AHEG will be held from 6 to 10 September 2010 in Nairobi. [NOTE: After notifying Bureau Members, the dates of the AHEG-1 will now be 13-17 September 2010]

The secretariat also pointed out that during the period leading up to the first AHEG substantive inputs on forest financing experiences, needs, opportunities and challenges are expected to be prepared by countries, forest regional processes, CPF member organizations, and major groups. In addition, a secretariat note will include initial results of the FP, and a number of voluntary country case studies were proposed for presentation during the workshops and panels t AHEG-1. Furthermore, to involve forest regional processes in the preparatory work for the AHEG-1, an informal meeting among some leaders of forest regional processes is being planned for June 2010 in New York. To further facilitate the UNFF work on forest financing, it was proposed to appoint two Co-Chairs for the entire four year UNFF work on forest financing, one each from the South and the North. The main topics for discussion in AHEG-1, according to the work plan, would include forest financing experiences, actions at national, regional, international levels, forest financing and the importance of forests in achieving the MDGs, the role of non-forest sectors and institutions in financing forests, and some features of forest financing strategy (ies) and mechanisms.

The secretariat added that the outcome of the AHEG-1 is proposed to be a Co-Chairs summary which will be presented to UNFF9. This outcome should include AHEG recommendations to UNFF9 on intersessional activities for the period between AHEG-1 and 2. The intersessional activities could include possible country, regional or organization –led initiatives on issues relevant to forest financing. The secretariat also mentioned that during this period, the results of the work of the FP would be provided to the Forum and based on its guidance the FP might be requested to provide concrete input to the AHEG. Various inputs have to be prepared during this period including a thorough analysis by the CPF on the state of forest financing, submission of concrete proposals by Member States, and a secretariat note which would contain proposed forest financing option(s). During this period, informal consultations by the Co-Chairs could be convened, as appropriate.

The Bureau expressed its appreciation of the preparation of the UNFF Strategic Work Plan on Forest Financing by the secretariat, and considered it as a very encouraging and promising step. The Bureau supported emphasis provided in the work plan on the cross-sectoral nature of the work on forest financing as well as the need to build the work of AHEG on firm analysis. On the AHEG co-chairs, the Bureau stressed that the co-chairs should be highly qualified senior professionals, with relevant multilateral experience, and at the ambassadorial level or higher.

Decision: The Bureau endorsed the UNFF/WP/FF as the basis for planning the UNFF work on forest financing, and for the secretariat to start the preparatory work for AHEG-1 on this basis. The Bureau decided that the AHEG-1 would be held from 6-10 [now changed to 13-17] September 2010 in Nairobi. The Bureau also agreed the two Co-Chairs, from the South and one from the North should run the four-year process, and the Bureau Members after consultation and within the next two weeks would inform the secretariat and the Bureau of their possible nominees. The Bureau aims at taking the decision on the appointments for the two co-chairs by 20 April 2010.

b. Update on the work of the Facilitative Process

The secretariat informed the Bureau that the UNFF secretariat initiated the Facilitative Process (FP), immediately after the adoption of the Resolution by UNFF9 Special Session (30 October 2009). A project entitled “Facilitating Financing for Sustainable Forest Management in SIDS and LFCCs” with three components has begun with funding support from UK/DFID and the GEF.

The first component, with a target of completion in June 2010, consisted of the development of both indicative country case-studies and macro-level papers on financing SFM in SIDS and LFCCs. This component is already underway and a consultant has been contracted to carry out these studies. The second and third components were in preparation and focus on sharing the findings with member state representatives, other stakeholders, donors and CPF members through a series of workshops, verifying the assessments in the papers and identifying further point and work to be carried out, but also in underscoring the most cogent points and points which extend to other countries. These workshops will serve to diffuse results more widely, and well as reporting to UNFF10. The scope of the FP is currently limited to two of the eight categories of countries identified in the Resolution, but the potential for further work of this type is there, dependent on the interest of member states and donors.

The Bureau thanked the secretariat for briefing, expressed support for the FP and asked the Secretariat for further information on why the FP work focused on SIDS and LFCCs.

Ms. McAlpine thanked the Bureau for its support, and pointed out that the FP work on the LFCCs and SIDs was based on the categories of countries identified in the resolution of the UNFF9 Special Session. These two groups experienced the historic 20-year decline in forest financing, but have also been identified as among the least likely of groups of countries to access financing for SFM in the near term. In addition, she pointed out, this first initiative is just the start of the work of the FP, and the FP work could be further expanded to include other category of countries if financial resources would be made available.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the progress report by the secretariat on the FP work with appreciation. The Bureau emphasized the need to expand the FP work to further

categories of countries and also recognized the need for Bureau Members to play a more active role in attracting resources for the FP to cover other groups of countries.

3. Preparations for the Ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests:

The secretariat briefed the Bureau on preparatory activities for the UNFF9. The Bureau was informed that apart from routine reports e.g. means of implementation, and enhanced cooperation, major work of the UNFF9 is in its overall theme “Forests for people livelihoods and poverty eradication”, the High Level Segment (HLS), the International Year of Forests (IYF) and the mid-term review of the implementation of the Non Legally Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI).

a. Documentations and the expected outcomes

The secretariat informed the Bureau that apart from AHEG documents, there were sixteen papers that have to be prepared for the UNFF9. The main theme of the UNFF9 is “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication” with three sub-themes: Social and cultural aspects, Community-based forest management, and Social development and indigenous communities and other local and forest dependent communities, including land tenure. The discussion in the UNFF9 would be shaped around three substantive Secretary General’s Reports (SGR) as background and one report that contain the SG recommendations on the overall theme and sub-themes:

- i) The SGR on social and cultural aspects of forests will be aimed at providing opportunities to raise the profile of the social and cultural aspects of forests by: articulating the significant role of forests including the NLBI and the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) for achieving MDGs and exploring their potential to increase the weight of social and cultural aspects of forests; building on the momentum of the 2010 MDGs/High Level Plenary Meeting (MDGs/HLPM) and providing concrete suggestions to raise the profile of social contributions of forests as inputs to the Rio+20 and the 2015 review of the international arrangement on forests.
- ii) The SGR on the community based forest management would take stock of the extent of community forestry, its evolution and the opportunities it offered for advancing the NLBI and financing for SFM.
- iii) The SGR on social development & indigenous and other local and forest dependent communities would pave the way for a thorough discussion on social integration of, job creation for, and poverty eradication among forest-dependent communities including the Indigenous Peoples (IPs). The report would also address associated policy issues such as land tenure rights, REDD+ and empowerment of women.

The secretariat emphasized that these reports would provide a solid ground for the UNFF9 to shape a people-centered approach to forests at the highest political levels. The discussion would also serve as a link to the theme of the UNFF10 on the economic aspects of forests, and might provide direction for the secretariat in intersessional work in support of the UNFF 10.

Regarding mid-term review, Ms. McAlpine mentioned that case studies such as the one carried out jointly by Germany and FAO on the implementation of the NLBI in Ghana, and additional input, e. g. by the NFP Facility could provide sound information for the Forum to have a mid-term review.

Specific mandated panel on food and energy by the UNFF8 as well as panel on regional experiences will be organized during UNFF 9 session.

The Bureau thanked the secretariat for the briefing.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the progress report on the preparation for the UNFF9 documentation, and decided to review this item at its next meeting.

b. Proposed Initial Work Program including for the HLS

In accordance with the multi year program of work of the Forum, the UNFF9 will include a High Level Segment (HLS). The HLS will offer an opportunity for strengthening political commitment to sustainable forest management, and to engage at the highest political level, including highlighting points to other important global events. The HLS was proposed for the second week of the Session (Wednesday & Thursday). It was therefore critical that an early engagement with Member States would be made to ensure the highest level of participation by as many Ministers as possible.

The Bureau thanked the secretariat for the briefing, and emphasized the need for early communication with Member States informing them on the dates of the HLS. The Bureau also welcomed the idea that the HLS should focus on: i. the theme of ‘forests for people’ ii. launching the International Year of Forests 2011, and iii. adopting a concrete outcome/message/declaration. The Bureau will provide their final view on this matter, after consultation with their respective constituencies.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the progress report by the secretariat, and endorsed the proposal to hold the HLS on 2 and 3 Feb. 2011. The secretariat will send a Note Verbal to Member States by the end of March, and will inform them of the dates of the HLS and its importance. The Bureau also requested the secretariat to submit an initial work programme of the UNFF9 to the next meeting of the Bureau.

c. Comprehensive road map of activities leading to the UNFF9 including calendar of major events

An updated roadmap of activities was provided by the secretariat to the Bureau.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the roadmap, and requested the secretariat to update the roadmap regularly.

4- Recent and upcoming events

a. CPF activities

The CPF member organization representatives held a meeting in Feb. 2010 in Rome in which the UNFFS Director participated as one of the member representatives. The Bureau was briefed on the discussions and the major results of this meeting, and took note of the secretariat report.

b. Upcoming CLIs in 2010

The Bureau received a progress report by the secretariat staff on the upcoming Workshop on Forest governance, decentralization and REDD in Latin America, a Country Led Initiative by the Governments of Switzerland and Mexico to be held from 31 August to 3 September 2010. This CLI aims to further improve understanding on how decentralization and broader forest governance reforms contribute to SFM, as well as to the improvement of living conditions for people who depend on forests, taking into account the realities of the region. The secretariat mentioned that the venue of the workshop would be decided soon. The secretariat informed the Bureau of the intention of the organizers to invite all members of the Bureau and, in case funds were available, provide financial support for the travel of Bureau members.

Further initiatives mentioned were a Major Group workshop planned to be held in Accra, Ghana, later this year, in preparation for UNFF9, and a proposal by the Netherlands for a possible workshop on illegal logging to be held in Vietnam.

As a general matter, Ms. McAlpine mentioned that there were no guidelines previously endorsed by the Forum on holding and organizing CLI's in support of the UNFF work. The general practice and understanding of these country-led initiatives has been further complicated by the new two-year time period between sessions of the Forum. She referred to some practical problems and confusions about the roles of the secretariat in the CLIs, including the expectation that the secretariat publish the outcomes of the CLIs, finance or promote funding for the CLIs. She also expressed concern that some CLI's were not directly relevant to the UNFF MYPOW. In her view there is a critical need to develop some overall guidelines, taking into account the experiences and lessons-learned. In this context, Ms. McAlpine suggested to the Bureau that UNFF9 take this issue up.

However, she also cautioned at not having a too formal or regulated approach to CLI's – much of their appeal and their contribution is due to the flexibility of the arrangement. A conservative approach to developing such general guidelines would be her advice.

The Bureau thanked the secretariat for sharing the information on the upcoming CLI as well as some of the practical difficulties associated with these initiatives. The Bureau acknowledged the benefits and important inputs that were provided by the CLIs to the UNFF. Meanwhile, the Bureau also recognized that to maximize the benefits of the CLIs, it would be necessary to develop some framing UNFF guidelines on the CLI at UNFF9. The Director also noted the repeated request by countries to have some kind of status for the documents emanating from a CLI. The Secretariats recommendation would be that the development of framing UNFF guidelines gives some consideration to providing some further status to CLI outcome documents for consideration by the Forum.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the secretariat briefing on the upcoming CLI, and also on some of the issues involved in regard to secretariat engagement in the CLIs. In order to optimize the inputs that CLI's can provide to the UNFF, and to help countries and organizations in their decisions and preparations, the Bureau invited the secretariat to draft revised guidelines for CLIs in support of UNFF, based on respective IPF/IFF recommendations and on experiences with past initiatives for consideration by the UNFF9, taking on board the caution about an overly prescriptive approach.

c. MDG Summit and Rio+20

The secretariat informed the Bureau on the upcoming High Level Plenary Meeting (HLPM) of the General Assembly (September 2010-NY) to review the progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. The MDGs/HLPM was expected to receive high level political attention by governments, and issues such as climate change and financial crisis are expected to be among the main topics for the discussion of the high level officials of countries. The secretariat also briefed the Bureau on the recent General Assembly resolution on holding the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2010 (Rio+20), and its implications in particular for the UNFF9. The secretariat highlighted the close interrelation of these events with Forests and suggested that the Bureau consider these events as means for elevating Forests on the global development agenda. The secretariat also proposed a joint meeting between the Bureaus of the UNFF9 and the Rio+20 Preparatory Committee, after its establishment.

The Bureau thanked the secretariat for the briefing, and concurred with the suggestion to use these exceptional opportunities for increasing the visibility of the contribution of forests, in particular the Non Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI , also called the forest instrument) and its four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) in the outcomes of these major events. The Bureau invited the UNFF secretariat to work within the UN secretariat to have Forests included in the relevant Secretary General reports to the MDG/HLPM, and the Bureau Members offered to work with Member States in their respective constituencies to make sure that the forest instrument, and the GOFs would be reflected in the outcome of the MDG/HLPM. The Bureau also considered the High Level

Segment of the UNFF9 as a golden opportunity to provide concrete input, such as a declaration or a message to the Rio+20 on Forests, and, to this end, emphasized the need to have participation of ministers in the High Level Segment to the maximum extent.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the secretariat briefing on the MDG/HLPM and the Rio+20. The Bureau Members offered to champion these issues to encourage Member States to include SFM, NLBI and the GOFs in the relevant outcomes of these events. The Bureau Members would consult with their constituencies on the need for a concrete input from the UNFF9/HLS to the Rio+20. The Chair of the UNFF9 through a letter to the Chair of the Rio+20 Preparatory Committee or through a joint meeting with the Bureau of the Rio+20 Preparatory Committee would discuss the means for incorporating forests contribution to sustainable development in the final outcome of the Rio+20.

d. UNFCCC COP 16 and REDD+ activities

The secretariat briefed the Bureau on the outcome of the Copenhagen Conference and its impact on forest financing, and the prospect for the next climate change conference in Mexico. While the Copenhagen Conference did not reach any official agreement on the way forward, the agreement among a number of countries on the Copenhagen Accord was considered as an important development in the climate change negotiation process, in particular in regard to the REDD+. The Secretariat is heavily engaged, the Director reported, in working with different processes to provide input to both the Secretary-General's overall process on these matters as well as with donor groups, multilateral agencies, including the World Bank, the GEF and the UN-REDD program. This area of work is significant for the financing framework as a whole.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the secretariat briefing on forest related developments in the climate change process, and decided to continue to evaluate these developments in future Bureau meetings.

e. International Year of Forests

The secretariat provided a power point presentation on the latest activities and plans for the International Year of Forests. IYF will have its own official website by August 2010. The secretariat is also collaborating with the CBD to organize a joint event on IYF and the International Year of Biodiversity. In addition, the upcoming General Assembly presents a tremendous opportunity for adoption of another resolution on the IYF. The official launch of the International Year will take place at UNFF9, and the High Level Segment in the UNFF9 will provide an opportunity for high level officials to announce their country-level activities to celebrate the IYF. The secretariat emphasized that the UNFF 9 theme of "Forests for People" will be one of the key messages of the IYF - highlighting the people and development aspects of forests, including links to the achievement of the MDGs. In addition to the HLS, the secretariat informed the Bureau of

a number of launch events that are being planned during the course of the UNFF9 session, including the launch of a UN Stamp series commemorating the IYF. The secretariat also pointed out that a Note Verbal will be sent soon to the Missions in NY inviting them to nominate IYF National Focal Points, and to provide their input for the Secretary General's report to the upcoming General Assembly.

Ms. McAlpine stressed the huge potential for planning more activities for the IYF. However, the ability of the secretariat is restricted due to limited resources available for this purpose. To this end, she underlined, more support is needed from key countries. She also proposed that some key countries from developing and developed countries become the champions for the IYF, including in the adoption of a resolution during the upcoming General Assembly on this issue.

The Bureau thanked the secretariat for the comprehensive preparations for the IYF. The Bureau emphasized the IYF will be a unique opportunity to attract ministerial or higher level participation in the UNFF9 High Level Segment. For these reasons, the Bureau stressed the need to communicate as early as possible with Member States on the IYF. The Bureau also stressed the need to find ways to attract more political and financial support for the planned activities, and supported proposals by Ms. McAlpine to have some countries as the champions for the IYF, as there was similar successful experience with this model in the International Year on Mountains.

Decision: The Bureau noted the importance and significance of the IYF and its potential to highlight the significant contribution of forests to the economic, social and environmental needs of UNFF's member states. The Bureau took special note of the secretariat report on the preparation and planned activities for the IYF. The Bureau Members agreed to act as champions to encourage Member States to provide political and financial support for the IYF. The Bureau Members will also encourage their respective constituencies to support adoption of a resolution in the General Assembly this year on the IYF

5- Future meetings of the Bureau

To expedite preparations for the Bureau meeting and to avoid extensive communications, the secretariat suggested to the Bureau that it decide on the dates and venues of its future meetings at this meeting, and proposed to the Bureau the following dates, and venues:

- Fourth meeting on 29 June 2010 in conjunction with the High Level Segment of ECOSOC, in New York,
- Fifth meeting on Sunday 5 September in Nairobi (Now it is Sunday 12 Sep.)
- Sixth meeting on 23 November 2010 in New York.

Decision: The Bureau accepted the proposed dates and venues for its future meetings.

6- Other matters:

a) Staffing of UNFFS, and Trust Fund including travel support for the Bureau

Under this agenda item, the Bureau was briefed on the latest information on the UNFF Trust Fund, resources available for its future meetings as well as the gradual decrease in the number of Junior Professionals (JP) and seconded secretariat members to the UNFF Secretariat. Currently, there is no JP (though Finland has now promised one for the next three years) and there is only one secretariat staff seconded from ITTO, but with limited funding for extended stay on the UNFF Secretariat staff. The Director reminded the Bureau that the General Assembly deliberatively designed the Secretariat to depend on voluntary resources (Trust Fund contributions) and secondments as a way to supplement its work, rather than developing a large new bureaucracy in the United Nations. While that is fine in theory, in practice the experience demonstrated in the presentation falls far short of the requires needed for adequate staff support, particularly in light of the growing importance of forests in climate change and with the significant new tasks associated with the financing decision of the UNFF9 at its Special Session in October 2009. The secretariat urged the Bureau Members to take an active role in reaching out donors and mobilizing resources to support the work of the secretariat in particular in regard to its administrative costs as well as on secondment. She also mentioned that the structure of three to four year MOUs was attractive to a number of Donors and that this framing mechanism provides a way to more easily facilitate future funds for a variety of tasks and activities in future years, rather than accepting a project by project approach which requires extensive transactional costs.

Decision: The Bureau commended the quality work done by the secretariat and took note of the UNFFS report on the staffing situation of the UNFFS as well as the available resources left for the Bureau travels. The Bureau Members also accepted the challenge to convey this message to donors, in order to encourage them to provide resources to the UNFF Trust Fund.

Closing of the meeting

Mr. Ozols thanked the Bureau members and the Secretariat for their active participation in the meeting. He then adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.