

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

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting

Thursday 17 June 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. 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

Others: Mr. Andreas Brandstatter (Permanent Mission of Austria).

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

- 1- Preparation for the first meeting of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group(AHEG)
 - i. Appointment of officers
 - ii. AHEG-1 organization of work
 - iii. Documentations for AHEG-1
 - iv. Travel support for AHEG-1 participants
 - v. Informal brainstorming meeting among regional processes
- 2- Update on the work of the Facilitative Process
- 3- Preparations for the Ninth Session of the UN Forum on Forests:
 - i. Documentations and the expected outcomes
 - ii. Proposed Initial Work Program including for the HLS
 - iii. Updated road map of activities leading to the UNFF9 including calendar of major events
- 4- Recent and upcoming events
 - i. CPF meeting on SFM definition
 - ii. REDD+ Coordination Meeting/ GEF Assembly
 - iii. CBD meeting

- iv. Upcoming CLIs in 2010
- v. Major Groups Initiative
- vi. MDG Summit and Rio+20
- vii. International Year of Forests

5- Future meetings of the Bureau

6- Other matters

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

i. Appointment of officers

The Bureau was reminded of the Chair's letter that was sent on 7 June 2010 to the G77, EU and JUSCANZ countries, inviting them to nominate one co-chair for the South and one co-chair for the North for the AHEG process. The Bureau was informed that there has been no official name so far, and countries and groups have time until the end of July to nominate the co-chairs.

Decision: Underscoring the importance of this issue, the Bureau Members agreed to encourage Member States to expedite nomination through their respective groups.

ii. AHEG-1 organization of work

The Bureau also considered the proposed organization of work for the AHEG-1 (13-17 September 2010, Nairobi). The Bureau stressed its previous decision to hold the AHEG-1 in a non-traditional manner, and pointed out the need to have country case studies related to forest management and financing from various regions and systems; market-based or public budgetary-based systems. The Bureau stressed that presentations during the AHEG-1 should be of catalytic nature and the main discussions should be among participating experts from member countries, allowing them to share their knowledge and views on important issues of forest financing. The Bureau emphasized that the AHEG-1 should provide building blocks for the Forum's future work.

Decision: The Bureau agreed with the proposed organization of work for the AHEG-1. The Bureau decided also to send a letter to countries and invite them to come to the AHEG-1 well prepared with information on their country experiences and actions on forest financing, also emphasizing the inter-sectoral and multi-institutional nature of forest financing opportunities and impediments.

iii. Documentations for AHEG-1

The Bureau received a progress report on the preparation of documents for the AHEG-1 as well as latest logistical and substantive preparation for the meeting. The Bureau was informed that the provisional agenda and the Secretariat Note for the AHEG-1 are due by the end of June 2010, and advance unedited version of these documents will be out by mid July 2010.

iv. Travel support for AHEG-1 participants

The Bureau was informed that as of 17 June 2010 and out of twenty one countries, eighteen countries have requested travel support, and the number of requests for support will increase significantly as the deadline for submission of the name of the experts is the end of June 2010.

v. Informal meeting among regional processes

The Bureau was informed about discussions during an informal meeting of forest related regional processes (RPs), multilateral development banks (MDBs) and international institutions which was held on 15 June 2010 at UNHQ NY. This meeting, which was organized by the UNFFS, was the first of its kind to reach out to this important group of players that traditionally have been outside the normal circles of UNFF circles. Participants included representatives of the UN-REDD Programme, the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) managed by the World Bank, Forest Europe, the African Development Bank (ADB), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and members of the UNFF secretariat. The main points of the discussion included:

- Significant interest by participants in getting fully involved in preparations for UNFF9 and in the work on forest financing including the upcoming Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing in Nairobi from 13-17 September 2010;
- Elevating “forests” on the agenda of major events and conferences including in the Rio+20 Summit;
- Exploring resources for forest financing that go beyond REDD+, and to create sustainable forest financing inclusive of all aspects and contributions of forests. In this context, participants emphasized the importance of the UNFF forest financing process to address finance issue in a very comprehensive manner so as to fill the gaps and needs of countries.
- The need for increased visibility of the UNFF and its work among the regional banks such as the ADB ; and

- The need to hold a series of similar meetings between the first and second meeting of the AHEG.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the report of this informal meeting among regional processes, regional development banks and the UNFFS.

2- Update on the work of the Facilitative Process

The Secretariat presented the Bureau with an update on progress made in the Facilitative Process that was kick-started in October 2009 with the launching of a project to identify gaps, obstacles and opportunities in forest financing in Small Island Developing States and Low Forest Cover Countries. The Secretariat provided information, especially with regard to the seven country case-studies selected for this project. Out of the eleven papers that constitute the output of the first component of this project, eight are currently in the form of first drafts with the remaining three expected before 20 July. Final versions will be ready ahead of the first meeting of the AHEG in September 2010.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the progress report and emphasized the need to maintain a cross-sectoral approach to addressing forest financing, particularly in both these categories of countries. The Bureau also considered presentation of the preliminary results of these studies at the AHEG-1 would be extremely helpful for the consideration of the experts.

3- Preparations for the Ninth Session of the UN Forum on Forests

i. Documentations and the expected outcomes

The Bureau received a progress report on the preparations, including documentation, for the UNFF9. Preparations are advanced on both organizational matters and documentation for UNFF 9. A draft containing a preliminary organization of work for the period 24th January – 4 February, 2011 was presented to the Bureau for their consideration. Twenty five documents are planned for the session of which nine are expected from the Major Groups. Member States, CPF members and Major groups have been invited by the Secretariat to provide their input for the preparation of the Secretary General reports. In response to the inquiry from the Bureau on the status of the preparation of the Mid-Term Review, the secretariat informed the Bureau that there is far too little input from Member States so far due to various reasons including lack of resources. A questionnaire has been sent out to get regional and sub-regional inputs, particularly on enhancing the reporting on progress made on implementation of the NLBI on all types of forests (Mid-term Review) and the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests. A similar questionnaire will be sent soon to the Member States on this matter. Input has also been requested from Member States, CPF members and Major Groups in respect to their planned activities for the IYF. The Secretariat invited the Bureau to bring this important issue to the attention of their respective constituencies, to mobilize support and sufficient resources for this review.

The Bureau was then presented with an update on the work of the secretariat with respect to the overall theme of the UNFF9 - “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication” and the three 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.” Bureau members were briefed on a series of brainstorming sessions that had been undertaken in identifying emerging issues and new approaches to addressing old problems. The brainstorming session with a group of external “wise persons” had identified 4 clusters and a set of cross-cutting issues. These were (i) Tenure security, (ii) Linking forest ecosystems values to human well-being, (iii) Land use change, (iv) Hybrid governance and (v) cross-cutting issues, including capacity building, Technology, Finance etc.

The secretariat proposed an omnibus resolution similar in approach to the resolution of UNFF8 Forests in a changing environment and addressed to the Member States, CPF and other international organizations, as well as to the UNFFS.

The Bureau discussed the expected substantive outcomes of UNFF9. The Bureau agreed that the main theme of UNFF9, “Forests for People” should have a resolution, providing guidance to governments and international organizations and people on the importance of forests for daily life of all inhabitants on the Earth. The resolution should also provide for intersessional work to bridge to the subject of forests and economic development, which is the theme for UNFF10.

The Bureau also considered another potential outcome for the UNFF9 as the result of a potential recommendation of the AHEG-1 on planning for intersessional activities between the AHEG-1 and the AHEG-2. This resolution may also contain the Forum’s guidance to the Facilitative Process.

In light of ongoing undesirable attempts to reinterpret the concept of sustainable forest management, the increased importance of forests in various multilateral processes, the launch of the International Year of Forests, the forest financing process and the upcoming Rio+20 Summit, the Bureau strongly felt the need for UNFF9 to seize this unique opportunity. In this regard, the Bureau unanimously agreed to the need for the HLS of the UNFF9 to have a distinct outcome through a Ministerial Declaration in which the Forum can address many of these issues, including providing input to the Rio +20 Summit on the subject of forests. The Bureau stressed that the draft declaration should be introduced early at the UNFF9 to allow sufficient time for exchange of views and consensus building among Member States. In this context, the Bureau agreed on the modalities for helping the Member States to agree to such a declaration, and invited its Chair to send a letter to Member States on the planning for preparation of the draft Ministerial declaration.

Decision: The Bureau agreed that UNFF9’s main substantive outcomes should aim for a resolution on the theme and sub-themes of “forests for people”, an omnibus resolution, including the mid-term review, means of implementation on possible guidance to the Facilitative Process, and other intersessional activities on forest financing,, and possibly

some other technical matters. The Bureau also agreed that a ministerial declaration by the High Level Segment should be an outcome of UNFF9.

ii. Proposed Initial Work Program including for the High Level Segment (HLS)

The secretariat introduced a preliminary work program covering the two week period of UNFF9 and highlighting the days for the various agenda items. The UNFF9 will have two working groups and allocation of agenda items among these groups will be decided by the Bureau. The Bureau discussed an interactive panel on food, energy and the economic challenges on Tuesday 25th January, 2011. The HLS will be held on 2-3 February, 2011 and the Secretary General will launch IYF during the High Level Segment. An interactive dialogue with Heads of CPF organizations will be held on 3rd February, 2011. The Bureau stressed the need for participation in the HLS at the highest political level in order to raise the profile of forests.

iii. Updated road map of activities leading to the UNFF9 including calendar of major events

An updated roadmap of activities, including the calendar of major forest related events, was provided by the secretariat to the Bureau.

4- Recent and upcoming events

i. CPF meeting on SFM definition

The Bureau was briefed on the background, focus and process emerging from a CPF Working Group Meeting on Advancing a Common Message on SFM, which met from 27 - 29 April 2010, at the UNFF Secretariat Headquarters, in NY. While highlighting the Working Group's objectives, tasks and desired outputs, the Secretariat also pointed to the strategic positioning of the initiative.

The Bureau appreciated the briefing, especially the rationale behind the Group's work, as it essentially relates to underlying discussions occurring in different fora on the term and concept of "SFM". Several Bureau members expressed their concern with the continued confusion stemming in different circles on the term SFM, which has provided a slant interpretation of the concept.

Decision: While working on the basis of the UN General Assembly's conceptual understanding of SFM, the Bureau urged the UNFF Secretariat to continue keeping Members abreast of the Working Group's progress and, through the CPF, to maintain stewardship of forest issues.

ii. REDD+ Coordination Meeting/ GEF Assembly

Ms. McAlpine briefed the Bureau on the recent REDD+ Coordination Meeting as well as the GEF Assembly. The UNFF Secretariat was the only outside entity that was invited to

the REDD+ Coordination Meeting at the World Bank on 3, 4 May, in Washington D.C. The participating group consisted of UN REDD (The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries), The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), The Forest Investment Program (FIP), and Global Environment Facility (GEF) forest and climate representatives and a representative from the government of Brazil's climate program.

The focus of the meeting was on increasing coordination among these otherwise separate operations, with a view to combining Missions, scoping data and outreach to the countries in which REDD programs are being implemented. The Director informed the Bureau that the participants acknowledged the unique role of the UNFF Secretariat in providing a broad policy framework on forest financing, within which the REDD+ programs are being implemented. The UNFF also will provide bilateral and regional data studies being undertaken in a four year financing strategic planning framework to this small coordinating group.

A brief summary of the important developments in recent GEF replenishment agreement was also provided to the Bureau. In its fifth replenishment period 2010-2014, the GEF will expand its activities in forest financing through a dedicated SFM and REDD+ investment program with a separate funding envelope of \$250 million. This significant new cross-cutting window for funding SFM was in large a response to the resolution of UNFF8 on the need for financing for SFM.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the reports on these important developments.

iii. CBD meeting

A full account of the issues related to forests and the outcomes of SBSTTA14, under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held from May 10-21, 2010, in Nairobi, Kenya, was reported to the Bureau. Among highlights concerning the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the CBD and UNFF secretariats (last December on the margins of UNFCCC COP 15), the Bureau also received details on the focus given to forest biodiversity, sustainable use and the CBD strategic plan - post 2010 period. While reporting on the issues, the Bureau picked up on the sensitivities and reluctance in regard to the draft terms of reference for an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Agriculture and Forestry.

The Bureau exchanged views on the draft terms of reference and the request made by the Executive Secretary of the CBD for Parties and international and regional organizations to submit views on the draft. They expressed concern that if such an AHTEG on forests and non-timber forest products is convened it could have a negative effect on the understanding about the concept of SFM. In addition, several noted that the forest community was not in favor of the AHTEG, mainly since it offered no added value and rather has made it more difficult to coordinate national responses across sectors. Furthermore, members recognized the numerous global and regional policy frameworks, guidelines and criteria and indicators for SFM, that includes protection and sustainable use of forest resources, which already exist and felt that the AHTEG would duplicate

work carried out for almost 2 decades by several forest related international and regional fora.

Decisions: The Bureau agreed to inform their groups of the developments on the issue of sustainable use and to respond to the CBD notification before 15 July 2010 with concrete recommendations aimed at revising the draft terms of reference. The Bureau also affirmed the importance of ensuring that the convening of any such AHTEG on forests and non-timber forest products would be in collaboration with the FAO, the UNFF Secretariat and other CPF members.

On a separate point, the Bureau members recognized the need for UNFF focal points to be actively involved in forest discussions at COP 10, especially the discussion on sustainable use, which is currently bracketed in the text.

iv. Upcoming CLIs in 2010

The Workshop on Forest governance, decentralization and REDD in Latin America, a Country Led Initiative by the Governments of Switzerland and Mexico in support of the work of UNFF will be held from 31 August to 3 September 2010 in Oaxaca, Mexico. The Secretariat informed members that the Bureau members were invited to the event, provided them with a copy of the invitation letter, and requested to be copied should the Bureau members contact the organizers of the Workshop regarding travel support and logistics, so that their request can be followed up.

v. Major Groups Initiative

The UNFFS briefed the Bureau on the preparations for the first UNFF Major Groups-Led Initiative (MGI) “Applying Sustainable Forest Management to Poverty Reduction: Strengthening the Multi-Stakeholder Approach within the UNFF”, to be held from 26-30 July 2010, in Accra-Ghana. The MGI aims at supporting the UNFF process by enhancing meaningful participation of Major Groups in the policy forum and building momentum towards implementation of the NLBI on all types of forests and the GOF. The Bureau received an update on the progress made since the MGI preparatory meeting in December 2009 supported by the Secretariat, including the programme, the preparation of case-studies, the launch of MGI website (www.mgi-forests.org), as well as the support so far received from donors and from the host-country government.

Decision: The Bureau took note that the MGI was under-funded. The Bureau further requested the Secretariat to finalize guidelines for CLI/OLIs in support of UNFF to ensure their more effective contributions to the work of the Forum, to be considered during its ninth session.

vi. MDG Summit and Rio+20

The High Level Plenary Meeting (HLPM) of the General Assembly will be convened in 20 to 22 September 2010 in New York to review the progress towards the achievement of

the MDGs. The Bureau was presented with a progress report on preparation for the MDGs/HLPM including organization of its roundtables, and the activities that secretariat has carried out in support of this meeting. There will be six roundtables on health and education, sustainable development, partnership, poverty, hunger & gender equality, emerging issues, and the most vulnerable. The secretariat informed the Bureau of its involvement in preparation of the background paper for the sustainable development roundtable, and its efforts to highlight the role of forests in achieving the MDGs. In regard to the substantive outcome of the HLPM, the Bureau was informed that the negotiations are underway on the draft outcome text between Member States

The Bureau also expressed its strong desire for high visibility of “forests” in the final outcome of the HLPM/MDGs, and stressed the need for Member States and the Secretariat to make utmost efforts to achieve this goal.

The Bureau received a short report on the outcome of the first meeting of the Rio+20 Preparatory Committee in May 2010, the agreed themes for the Summit, organization of work as well as issues of difference among Member States. The Bureau discuss the ways to highlight “forests” in the deliberation of that Committee and in the Rio+20 Summit, and considered a potential Ministerial Declaration by the UNFF9, as a substantive input for that Summit.

Decision: The Bureau took note of these briefings, and emphasized the need for all key players to work together to raise the profile of forests in these important events and processes.

ii. International Year of Forests

The Secretariat presented an update to the UNFF9 Bureau on the latest preparations for the International Year of Forests. The IYF logo designed by the UN Graphic Design unit is being finalised and will be launched by mid July 2010. The Secretariat noted that responses to the Note Verbale sent in April were slowly coming in, and it was hoped that more countries would provide information updates in time for the SG report to the 65th session of the General Assembly. The Secretariat presented an overview of the current status of funding/ fundraising for the Year and that, in addition to the contribution from Croatia, a pledge had been received from Austria. Since the last Bureau meeting, the Secretariat has been engaged in reaching out to partners, and in this regard the May 2010 meeting of the UNECE-FAO Forest Communicators Network was particularly useful in getting feedback on IYF plans and identifying areas of collaboration. To build on these existing contacts, the Secretariat is contemplating forming an informal advisory group "Friends of IYF" to help and advise the Secretariat on the communications and outreach efforts worldwide. The Secretariat will circulate a brief concept note on this “Friends of IYF” group so that UNFF9 Bureau Members may consider nominations to this group from their respective regional groups.

The Bureau provided their positive feedback on the logo design, noting that the visual look and feel would appeal to all audiences, but also to children. The Bureau noted the

need to have the logo launched at the earliest date possible to enable member States to incorporate the design into their publications, and other IYF-related materials.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the report as well as the Secretariat's request for nominations for "Friends of IYF", and agreed to send suggestions following receipt of a concept note on this informal group from the Secretariat.

5- Future meetings of the Bureau

The Bureau was informed of the arrangements for its future meetings.

Decision: The Bureau agreed to have a meeting on 12 September in Nairobi to review the last minute preparations of the AHEG-1 meeting, and to convene a substantive meeting on 23rd November 2010 in New York.

6- Other matters

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

Under this agenda item, the Bureau was provided with the latest information on the UNFF Trust Fund and the resources available for its future meetings, in particular for the AHEG-1. Travel support is needed to ensure satisfactory representation of delegates from developing countries and countries in transition participating in the AHEG. An approximate total amount of US\$280,000 is needed for travel support. At this point, an additional amount of US\$111,792 from extra-budgetary funds is urgently needed to ensure satisfactory representation from developing countries, countries in transition and Major Groups at the AHEG.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the UNFFS report on the available resources left for the Bureau travels as well as for the experts travel to the AHEG-1. The Bureau Members will convey this matter 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 6:00 p.m.