

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

**Minutes of the Second Meeting**

Friday 30 October 2009  
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. Njeri Kariuki, Mr. Benjamin Singer, Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Ms. Maria Pohjanpalo, and Ms. Rui Zhang

**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 second meeting of the Bureau was the following:

- 1- Review of Decision of the UNFF9 Special Session on Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management:
  - a) Preparation and possible date for the meeting of the open ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group prior to UNFF9,
  - b) Brief introduction on new projects under the UNFF Facilitative Process:
- 2- Ongoing activities of the Secretariat relevant to UNFF9: Projects under the Capacity Development Programme and the UN Development Account
- 3- Preparations for the Ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests:
  - a) Upcoming country-led initiatives (CLIs) in 2009-2010
  - b) Intersessional activities
  - c) Comprehensive road map of the activities leading to the UNFF9
- 4- Future meetings of the Bureau
- 5- Other matters
  - a) Staffing of the UNFF Secretariat
  - b) UNFFS at the XIII World Forestry Congress

## **1. Review of the Decision of the UNFF9 Special Session on Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management**

Mr. Arvids Ozlos, Chair of the UNFF9 Bureau, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the UNFF9 Bureau and the participating staff members of the secretariat. He then proceeded with the adoption of agenda for the meeting.

All Members of the Bureau expressed satisfaction with the milestone agreement reached among Member States on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management (MOI/SFM). The Bureau Members emphasized the significance of this decision for the promotion of sustainable forest management, Member States and for the UNFF, and stressed on the need for timely and effective implementation of this decision.

In this connection, the Bureau thanked Mr. Zainuddin for his efforts in paving the way for ECOSOC to adopt a separate procedural decision authorizing informal consultations to conclude the negotiations on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management and convening a special session of UNFF9. The Bureau also expressed its appreciation to two Co-Facilitators of the informal consultations Mr. Boen Purnama and Mr. Hans Hoogeveen for their tireless efforts and outstanding performance in leading the consultations to a successful conclusion.

### **a) Preparation and possible date for the meeting of the open ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group prior to UNFF9,**

The Bureau stressed on the importance of the work of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG), as well as on the need for full preparation for its first meeting in 2010. Mr. Ozlos mentioned that when, where and how to make preparation for the first meeting of the AHEG, are the follow up issues that the Bureau has to consider and decide. He also emphasized that there were huge interests and some concerns on this issue and we need to make sure that all of those interests and concerns were very well taken care of in the preparatory work.

In providing the Bureau with some practical suggestions on the possible date and venue for the AHEG, Ms. McAlpine, Director, mentioned September/October 2010 as the best timeline for holding the meeting since it would allow sufficient time for making preparation for the meeting and it would not conflict with the tight schedule of the CLIs and deadlines for the Secretary General reports to the UNFF9. In light of the importance of wide participation of countries in the AHEG meeting and the emphasis of Member States on open-ended nature of the AHEG meetings, she also proposed to the Bureau to consider the possibility of holding the first meeting of the AHEG in one of the UN Offices in Nairobi or Santiago. She also proposed if the Bureau wishes to take an innovative and non-traditional approach for planning and holding the first meeting of AHEG, with prior consultations with Member States and groups.

The Bureau welcomed the suggestions made by Ms. McAlpine in regard to the timing, and venue of the first meeting of the AHEG. The Bureau considered participation, costs and budgetary issues as the main factors for a decision on the venue of the meeting. To bring UNFF closer to where actions are needed to raise awareness and promote sustainable forest management, the Bureau generally supported to hold the first meeting of the AHEG in September/October 2010 outside of New York and preferably in Nairobi. It requested the Secretariat to further explore feasibility of such a meeting venue. The Bureau also expressed its interest to consider innovative

approaches for planning the first meeting of the AHEG, and in this regard mentioned the usefulness of the experiences of the CLIs. The Bureau stressed that such an approach should ensure a real outcome for the process and pave the way for early engagement of Member States in the preparatory work.

**b) Brief introduction on the new projects under the UNFF Facilitative Process:**

Ms. McAlpine mentioned the secretariat has already started its work under the Facilitative Process with a project entitled: Facilitating Financing for Sustainable Forest Management in SIDS and LFCCs. She mentioned that this project would be finalized and launched in near future. The first component of this project was being funded through UK-DFID and the remaining two components through GEF funding. The discussions then proceeded with short presentations on these projects by the secretariat staffs.

The Bureau Members appreciated the secretariat for being proactive and quick in starting the UNFF Facilitative Process work, and encouraged that such projects would be expanded to cover all categories of countries under the Facilitative Process. The Bureau also stressed that the outcomes of these projects would provide a substantive contribution to the AHEG meeting.

Ms. McAlpine thanked the Bureau for their support and mentioned that the secretariat was willing to do similar work for other categories of countries. However, lack of resources limited the ability to expand the work, and as soon as the resources would be available the substantive work would begin to address the needs of these categories of countries.

**2. Ongoing activities of the Secretariat relevant to UNFF9: Projects under the Capacity Development Programme and the UN Development Account**

The Bureau invited Ms. McAlpine to provide some background information on the relevant activities of the secretariat. Ms. McAlpine pointed out that the secretariat was able to mobilize new and additional resources from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs this year and channeled these resources towards some key areas of the UNFF multi-year program of work (MYPOW). Following Ms. McAlpine's introduction of the item, the secretariat staffs made presentations on three major activities namely: a) Developing a strategy for promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable forest management and the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI-Forests, tentatively planned in November 2009 in Yokohama), b) Preparatory and coordination meeting for a Multi-Stakeholder Meeting for Enhancing Effectiveness of Major Groups Participation in UNFF (UNFF Major Groups Initiative)- tentatively scheduled in December 2009- Copenhagen and c) Strengthening National Reporting in Support of the Implementation of the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests

The Bureau commended the secretariat for its proactive approach in leveraging resources for issues that were closely matched with the MYPOW. The Bureau, especially highlighted the benefits of capacity building on national reporting for developing countries, and thanked the secretariat for its initiatives. The Bureau emphasized on the importance of sharing the experience among different regions on "reporting exercise", and on the provision of French translation in those meetings.

Ms. McAlpine thanked the Bureau for its valuable support and encouragement. She mentioned that lack of resources was the main constraint for not having the translation services in French.

She also informed the Members of the Bureau that a workshop for sharing the experience among regions was already planned as a part of activity 2c.

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

- a) Upcoming CLIs in 2009-2010**
- b) Intersessional activities**
- c) Comprehensive road map of the activities leading to the UNFF9**

The Bureau received progress reports by the secretariat staffs on the upcoming country-led initiatives (CLI) including China CLI on “Forests for people: the role of national forest programmes and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests” in November 2009 as well as the other country-led initiative being organized by Switzerland on “Regional Workshop on Forest Governance, Decentralization and REDD in Latin America”(30 Aug-3 Sep.2010-Mexico).

The Bureau was informed of recent intersessional activities in which the secretariat had active participation and involvement. The secretariat staffs who participated in those meetings provided brief presentations on those meetings. These included the Third Pacific Regional Heads of Forestry Meeting in September 2009 in Fiji, Sub-Regional Workshop jointly organized by the CBD secretariat and the UNFFS on Forest Biodiversity and Climate Change in September 2009 in Singapore, and the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the Timber Committee of the UNECE in September 2009 in Geneva. The secretariat also informed the Bureau that for the first time, the UNFFS was invited to the meeting of the Environmental Management Group (EMG) during the recent conference of the parties of the UNCCD in Buenos Aires and was invited to be a member of the Issue Management Group on Land. The Bureau welcomed active participation of the secretariat in the above-mentioned activities and initiatives, and considered participation of the UNFFS in the work of the EMG in line with the decision of the UNFF8 on the expansion of cooperation with the Rio Conventions.

In response to its request at the first meeting, the Members of the Bureau received an updated copy of the road map of main activities during the period leading to the UNFF9. The Bureau was also briefed by the Secretariat staff on the major events in the road map. The Bureau thanked the secretariat for the preparation of the road map and recognized that the road map has an evolving nature and has to be updated regularly by the secretariat. [The Bureau requested the secretariat to send a copy of the road map to the Bureau Members by e-mail.](#)

### **4. Future meetings of the Bureau**

In its first meeting, the Bureau decided to have one meeting in 2009, three meetings in 2010 and one meeting in 2011. The Bureau emphasized that its meetings should be organized in conjunction with related meetings to streamline traveling burden of the members. The secretariat staff mentioned some of the upcoming relevant events including the AHEG in 2010 as possible timing for the meetings of the Bureau in 2010. The Bureau agreed that one of its meetings should be held in conjunction with the AHEG meeting in 2010. [The Bureau requested the secretariat to provide the Bureau Members with a list of possible dates for the Bureau meetings, for their consideration.](#)

### **5- Other matters:**

- a) Staffing of the UNFF Secretariat**

## **b) UNFFS at the XIII World Forestry Congress**

Ms. McAlpine briefed the Bureau on recent developments in regard to recruitments of new staffs for the secretariat. She pointed out that 75% of the administrative budget for the secretariat staffs was born from extra budgetary resources and the Trust Fund. She encouraged the Bureau Members to take an active role in reaching out donor countries and mobilize resources to support the work of the secretariat and in particular its administrative costs. The Bureau commended the quality work done by the secretariat and expressed its readiness to convey this message to donor countries. In this context, [the Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare a draft letter to be sent by the Chair of the UNFF9 Bureau to donor countries, after consideration by the Bureau Members.](#)

The Bureau received a short explanation on the activities of the secretariat during the XIII World Forestry Congress.

### **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.