

United Nations Forum on Forests
Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the Bureau of the Twelfth Session
30 April 2017 (4:30 - 6:30 pm), UNHQ, New York

Participation

Bureau Members: Mr. Peter Besseau (Canada), Mr. Tomas Krejzar (Czech Republic)

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Mr. Hossein Moeini Meybodi, Ms. Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild, Ms. Mita Sen, Mr. Ryo Nakamura, Mr. Ryosuke Ujihashi

Others: Mr. Vicente Araujo (Brazil), Mr. Zhong Zheng (China), Ms. Natalie Benešová (Czech Republic)

Summary of Key Actions/Decisions

- 1. The UNFF12 Chair's summary could include a brief summary of panel discussions, including proposals by Members of the Forum.**
- 2. The UNFF12 omnibus resolution could include issues related to: i) intersessional activities in preparation for HLPF2018, ii) format and cycle for reporting to the Forum, iii) guidelines for Country-led Initiatives and other similar initiatives, in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 and, iv) means of implementation for sustainable forest management.**

**Provisional Agenda and Annotation
Fifth meeting of the UNFF12 Bureau**

**30 April 2017 (4:30 pm-6:30 pm), DC2 - 23rd Floor
New York**

- 1- Final Preparations for UNFF12**
- 2- Funding for the travel of eligible country representatives**
- 3- Other matters**

Mr. Peter Besseau, Chair of the UNFF12 Bureau, welcomed members of the Bureau and the Secretariat to the fifth meeting of the UNFF12 Bureau held at UNHQ, New York. The provisional agenda of the fifth meeting was adopted.

1. Final Preparations for UNFF12

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the Secretary had advised the introduction of official documents at the start of the respective agenda item during the week rather than opening all items on the first day of the Session as had been initially proposed by the Bureau, noting that this approach would not prevent the Bureau from conducting informal consultations on issues that may need additional time for discussion, from the beginning of the week.

The Bureau reviewed the organization of work for the Forum during the week, including the arrangements for the opening session and the panel discussions, appointment of the Rapporteur of UNFF12 as well as the assignment of Bureau members to panel sessions. Due to the absence of Ms. Della Nina, Bureau member from Latin America and the Caribbean Group who was expected to be the Rapporteur of the UNFF12, and in order to maintain the informal rotation among the Bureau members, the Bureau agreed to switch the Rapporteurship of UNFF13 and UNFF12. In this regard, the Bureau agreed that Mr. Tomas Krejzar, Bureau Member from the Eastern European Group to be the Rapporteur for UNFF12, and the UNFF13 Bureau member from Latin America and the Caribbean to be the Rapporteur for UNFF13.

The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that the Secretary had received the nomination of Ambassador Baudelaire Ndong Ella (The Gabonese Republic) from the African Group as its bureau member to the UNFF12 Bureau, and Ambassador Macharia Kamau (Kenya) to the UNFF13 Bureau.

The Bureau also held a discussion on substantive outcomes of the Forum and possible issues for inclusion in the omnibus resolution. The Bureau considered that the Chair's summary could include a brief summary of panel discussions scheduled to be held during the week, including suggested proposals. The Bureau further considered that the omnibus resolution could include issues related to: i) intersessional activities in preparation for HLPF2018; ii) format and cycle for reporting to the Forum; and iii) guidelines for Country-led Initiatives and other similar initiatives, in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2015/33. The Bureau also discussed the election of members of UNFF13 Bureau, noting that the election of the UNFF13 Bureau may be considered under a separate decision.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that, as of the today, approximately 200 participants from 81 Member States and an additional 100 participants from 31 organizations had registered for the Session. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that conference rooms have been reserved for 10 side events scheduled to be held during UNFF12.

2. Funding for the travel of eligible country representatives

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that travel support was being provided to 70 representatives from eligible countries and participants. This was an unprecedented number of requests for funding, and the Secretariat had great difficulty in securing sufficient funding. This travel support was funded through extra-budgetary funding designated for this purpose. The Secretariat noted that no contributions have been made for UNFF12. However, funding was available from contributions from Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands and China, which had been originally intended to support the travel of eligible country representatives to participate in AHEG2 held in October 2016 and the Working Group of the Forum held in January 2017.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that due to continuous decrease of designated extrabudgetary funding for travel support, depending on the availability of funding, provision of travel support for future sessions of the Forum may be limited to tickets only.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.