

## **Second Series of Meetings of the International Arrangement on Forests Independent Assessment Team (7-11 January 2014, New York)**

### **Brief Note**

#### **Background**

According to the UNFF's multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) adopted in 2007, the overall theme of the eleventh session of the UNFF (UNFF11), which will be held in May 2015 in New York, is "Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests". During UNFF11, the Forum will review the effectiveness of the IAF<sup>1</sup>. In preparation for this review the Forum through Resolution 10/2<sup>2</sup> of the tenth session of the UNFF (UNFF10) decided to undertake several preparatory intersessional activities to ensure that UNFF11 has a strong basis to review the effectiveness of the IAF, and to make a decision on the future of the IAF. One of the major intersessional activities is to conduct an independent assessment of the IAF.

The Terms of Reference for the IAF Independent Assessment Team (IAF Team) was adopted by the UNFF11 Bureau in June 2013. The IAF Team is composed of two co-facilitators and five consultants, each from one UN region. They were identified by the UNFF11 Bureau, and the consultants are hired by the UNFF Secretariat. The co-facilitators act on behalf of the Bureau and facilitate the work of the consultants to produce one consolidated output. The work of the IAF Team began in October 2013 and should submit the final output well in advance of the second meeting of the ad hoc expert group (AHEG2) on the IAF (to be held towards the end of 2014 or early 2015 in New York). AHEG2 will review the input from the IAF Team as well as other relevant inputs and submit its recommendations on the future of the IAF to UNFF11.

#### **Meetings of the IAF Team in January 2014**

The IAF Team held its first joint meeting during the Facilitative Dialogue Workshop on the IAF in October 2013 in Vienna and provided a progress report to the workshop participants. They also engaged in the workshop's discussions and met with their respective regional groups. The IAF Team held its second series of meetings from 7 to 11 January 2014 in New York. These meetings were held in conjunction with the seventh meeting of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. During this period, members of the IAF Team met with representatives of different countries, international and regional organizations and senior United Nations officials, as well as UNFF major groups focal points, and sought their views on various components of the IAF, as stipulated in Resolution 10/2 of UNFF10, and their terms of reference. They also discussed and finalized their workplan.

#### **Future Meeting**

The IAF Team is going to hold its third meeting in conjunction with the first meeting of the AHEG (24-28 February 2014, Nairobi, Kenya). The IAF Team will provide a progress report to the AHEG1 and will engage actively in its discussions. They are also supposed to meet with several stakeholders, including their respective regions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Resolution 7/1 of UNFF7 and its annex, contained in document E/2007/42, E/CN.18/2007/8 at: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/349/31/PDF/N0734931.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>2</sup> Document E/2013/42-E/CN.18/2013/18 at:

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/321/90/PDF/N1332190.pdf?OpenElement>