

United Nations Forum on Forests
Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Bureau of the Eleventh Session
31 October 2014¹ (5:15 – 8:15 pm), Beijing, China

Participation

Bureau Members: H.E. Mr. Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon), Mr. Wu Zhimin (China), Mr. Srecko Juricic (Croatia), Mr. Heikki Granholm (Finland), Mr. Vicente Bezerra (Brazil)

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Manoel Sobral-Filho (via teleconference), Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi (via teleconference), Ms. Mita Sen

Others: Mr. André-Jules Madingou (Gabon), Mr. Sixian Zheng (China)

Summary of Key Actions/Decisions

1. The preliminary organisation of work for AHEG2 and UNFF11 were agreed.
2. UNFF11 Working Group 1 will be responsible for negotiation and agreement on the draft UNFF11 Ministerial Declaration, while UNFF11 Working Group 2 will be responsible for negotiation and agreement on the resolution on the future of the international arrangement on forests (IAF) beyond 2015.
3. Mr. Wu Zhimin and Mr. Srecko Juricic will be Vice-Chairs for Working Group 1, and Mr. Heikki Granholm and Mr. Vicente Bezerra will be Vice-Chairs for Working Group 2.
4. Mr. Heikki Granholm will serve as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of UNFF11.
5. A reminder will be sent to Member States on the upcoming 5 December 2014 deadline for the second round of views and proposals on the IAF, as well as the 30 January 2015 deadline on input on suggested building blocks for the UNFF11 Ministerial Declaration.
6. The next Bureau meeting will be held on 17 January 2015 at UNHQ, New York.

¹ Pursuant to the informal consultation among the Bureau members during the Chinese CLI and to allow the Bureau members to join the field trip on Saturday 1 November 2014, the Bureau members agreed to change the original date of their 5th meeting from 1 November to the evening of 31 October 2014, immediately after the conclusion of the CLI.

Provisional Agenda and Annotation
Fifth meeting of the UNFF11 Bureau
31 October 2014 (5:15 – 8:15 pm), Beijing, China

- 1- Brief review of the outcome of the Chinese CLI
- 2- Preparations for the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests:
 - a. Review of the preliminary organization of work of UNFF11, including its high level segment
 - b. Tasks of the Working Groups
 - c. Designation of the Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups/Rapporteur
- 3- Preparations for the second meeting of the ad hoc expert group (AHEG2) on the international arrangement on forests:
 - a. Documentation
 - b. Organization of work
 - c. Outcome
- 4- Update on recent and upcoming events
 - a. NY Declaration on Forests
 - b. CPF meeting in October 2014
 - c. Global Landscape Forum in Lima/Peru
 - d. Briefing on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
 - e. Swiss CLI, and Major Groups-Led Initiative
- 5- Date and venue of the next UNFF11 Bureau meeting
- 6- Other matters:
 - a. The status of the Trust Fund, including travel support for experts/delegates participating at AHEG2 and UNFF11
 - b. Staffing status of the UNFFS

The Chair of the UNFF11 Bureau welcomed members of the Bureau to the meeting. He thanked the members of the UNFF11 Bureau and the Secretariat for their work to date and noted that good progress had been made in preparations for AHEG2 and UNFF11.

The Chair congratulated Mr. Manoel Sobral-Filho on his appointment as Director of the UNFF Secretariat. Mr. Sobral-Filho expressed his appreciation to the Chair and the Bureau, further noting that he was looking forward to working with them in the coming months to ensure a successful outcome for UNFF11 and a solid and strong international arrangement on forests for the period beyond 2015.

The provisional agenda of the 5th meeting was adopted.

1. Brief review of the outcome of the Chinese CLI

The Chair congratulated the Government of the People's Republic of China for the successful convening of the CLI. He noted that the discussions had produced very fruitful conclusions as contained in the Co-Chairs' Summary document that was circulated at the final session of the workshop. He further observed that the timing of the CLI was "very timely", given the ongoing deliberations on the post-2015 agenda, climate change and institutional reform. It was noted that the Co-Chairs Summary of the CLI would be transmitted as an official document to UNFF11, and that a presentation on the outcome of the CLI was planned for AHEG2.

2. Preparations for the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests:

a. Review of the preliminary organization of work of UNFF11, including its high level segment

The Bureau reviewed the draft preliminary organization of work for UNFF11, and provided their comments and suggestions. The Bureau agreed on the preliminary organisation of work of UNFF11 with the proposed modifications.

b. Tasks of the Working Groups

The Bureau decided that there would be two working groups at UNFF11. Working Group 1 will be responsible for negotiation and agreement on the draft UNFF11 Ministerial Declaration, while Working Group 2 will be responsible for negotiation and agreement on the draft resolution on the future of the international arrangement on forests (IAF).

c. Designation of the Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups/Rapporteur

The Bureau decided that Mr. Wu Zhimin and Mr. Srecko Juricic would be designated as Vice-Chairs for Working Group 1. The Bureau decided that Mr. Heikki Granholm and Mr. Vicente Bezerra would be designated as Vice-Chairs for Working Group 2.

Based on the practice and the rotation of responsibilities among various regions for the UNFF11 Bureau, the Bureau decided that Mr. Heikki Granholm, the Bureau member representing WEOG, would assume responsibility of the vice-chairmanship and rapporteurship.

3. Preparations for the second meeting of the ad hoc expert group (AHEG2) on the international arrangement on forests:

a. Documentation

The Bureau reviewed planned documentation for AHEG2, which includes the provisional agenda and annotation (print/hard copy), compilation of the second round of views on the future of the IAF by Member States and stakeholders (online) and the IAF independent assessment report (online), as well as the organization of work for AHEG2.

Given the relevance of the ongoing post-2015 development agenda discussions, as well as the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Bureau proposed that the Secretariat prepare an informal information note on these topics, as background information for the AHEG2 discussions.

The Bureau suggested that a reminder should be sent to Member States on the upcoming 5 December 2014 deadline for a second round of views and proposals on the IAF.

b. Organization of work

The Bureau and the AHEG Co-Chairs discussed the draft organization of work for AHEG2. The Bureau provided some suggestions. The preliminary organisation of work was agreed with the modification proposed by the Bureau. .

c. Outcome

The Bureau noted the importance of the AHEG2 meeting, especially in facilitating action-oriented discussion on the post-2015 IAF. The AHEG2 main outcome will be a Co-Chairs summary of the key actions/options on the main components of the future IAF. It was further noted that the Co-Chair's summary would be incorporated into the AHEG2 report for submission to UNFF11.

4. Update on recent and upcoming events

a. NY Declaration on Forests

The Secretariat informed the Bureau on the New York Declaration on Forests, which was endorsed by a number of countries at the UN Climate Summit held in September 2014. The Declaration was endorsed by 27 countries, a number of subnational governments, private sector companies, civil society organizations and indigenous peoples. The preparatory work was conducted by the UNDP and the office of the UN Secretary-General. This Declaration is an important input to the ongoing negotiation within the climate Change Convention to agree on a new climate change agreement in December 2015 in Paris.

b. CPF meeting in October 2014

The Secretariat reported that the key substantive issues discussed at the 5 October 2014 meeting of the Partnership focussed on the ongoing review of the IAF, and preparations for AHEG 2 and UNFF11. In this regard, the Bureau was updated that the CPF was working on a written input for AHEG2, which would outline the future vision for the Partnership beyond 2015. The Bureau expressed their appreciation to the CPF member organizations for considering provision of a written input to the IAF review. The Secretariat also reported that the CPF members are working on the CPF Framework for 2013 and 2014, which provides the Forum with updates on the substantive work carried out by the Partnership in support of UNFF.

c. Global Landscape Forum in Lima/Peru

The Secretariat updated the Bureau on the status of preparations for the 2nd Global Landscape Forum (GLF), a CPF initiative that will take place in Lima, Peru from 6-7 December 2014. The four key themes of the 2014 GLF are the implementation of integrated landscapes approaches; forests, agriculture, mountains and land use in the new climate regime; landscapes and the green economy and landscapes and the post-2015 development agenda.

d. Briefing on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Secretariat informed the Bureau on the ongoing developments related to the post-2015 development agenda. The Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda is proposed to be held from 21 to 23 September 2015 in New York, as a High-level Plenary meeting of the 70th Session of the GA (2015). In October 2014, the President of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly (2014) appointed Ambassador David Donoghue (Ireland) and Ambassador Macharia Kamau (Kenya) as the Co-Facilitators to lead open, inclusive, and transparent consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, including the organization and modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations and the remaining issues related to the Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. The organization and modalities for the negotiations are expected to be announced in due course.

e. Swiss CLI, and Major Groups-Led Initiative

The Secretariat updated the Bureau that preparations were on track for the Swiss CLI (INTERLAKEN+10, Governing Forest Landscapes), to be held in Interlaken, Switzerland on 3-6 February 2015. The Secretariat also updated the Bureau that the Major Groups-Led Initiative was working to find an alternate host country, as it was no longer feasible for the meeting to be hosted in Suriname.

5. Date and venue of the next UNFF11 Bureau meeting

The Bureau provisionally agreed to hold its sixth meeting on 17 January 2015.

6. Other matters:

a. The status of the Trust Fund, including travel support for experts/delegates (from developing countries and countries with economies in transition) participating at AHEG2 and UNFF11

The Secretariat updated the Bureau that, to date, 60 requests for travel support for expert travel to AHEG2 had been received. The Bureau was also informed that the cost for travel support for UNFF11 was estimated at USD\$500,000. To meet these increasing demands, the Secretariat emphasized the critical need for donor countries to provide sufficient resources to the UNFF Trust Fund to address these needs. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that announced contributions from China, Finland, the Russian Federation and the US to the UNFF Trust Fund were still pending receipt. The Bureau members from China and Finland also informed the Bureau that the process for provision of their announced contribution is ongoing.

b. Staffing status of the UNFFS

The Secretariat reported that Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho had been appointed as Director of the UNFF with effect from 29 October 2014. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau about the process for recruitment of other vacant posts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm on 31 October 2014.