

**United Nations Forum on Forests**  
**Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Bureau of the Eleventh Session**

**9 March 2015 (12:00 - 2:00 pm, 3:00 - 8:00 pm)**

**10 March 2015 (9:30 am - 12:00 pm)**

**UNHQ, New York**

**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, Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, Mr. Peter Gondo, Ms. Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild, Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchill, Ms. Mita Sen, Mr. Ryo Nakamura, Ms. Stephanie Caswell

**Others:** Ambassador Marianne Odette Bibalou, Mr. Pierre Oniane Nguema, Ms. Rolande Mengue Bekale, Mr. Hans Martien Diaba (Mission of Gabon), Mr. André-Jules Madingou (Gabon), Ms. Emilia Van Veen (Mission of Finland), Humberto Santana Junior (Mission of Brazil)

**Summary of Key Actions/Decisions**

- 1. The Bureau will prepare two non-papers that contain the elements of the UNFF11 Ministerial Declaration and the Resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015.**
- 2. The non-papers will be sent to Member States by 13 April 2015. Interested countries/political groups may provide their views on the non-papers to the Secretariat in advance of UNFF11.**
- 3. The next Bureau meeting will be held in New York on 17 April 2015.**

**Provisional Agenda  
7th Meeting of the UNFF11 Bureau**

**9 March 2015 (12:00 - 2:00 pm, 3:00 - 8:00 pm)**

**10 March 2015 (9:30 am - 12:00 pm)**

**UNHQ, New York**

- 1- Brief review of the outcome of the informal consultation and the way forward
- 2- Preparations for UNFF11
- 3- Update on recent and upcoming events
  - i. Major Groups-Led Initiative in Nepal
  - ii. Post-2015 development agenda
- 4- Other matters:
  - i. The status of the Trust Fund, including travel support for delegates participating at UNFF11

The Chair of the UNFF11 Bureau welcomed members of the Bureau to the meeting. The provisional agenda of the 7th meeting was adopted.

## **1. Brief review of the outcome of the informal consultation and the way forward**

The Bureau held a thorough discussion on the outcome of the informal consultation with Member States on 9 March 2015. Bureau members noted that the consultation provided a valuable opportunity for Member States to express their additional views and proposals on the elements and components of the UNFF11 draft Ministerial Declaration and draft Resolution on the international arrangement on forests (IAF) beyond 2015. The inputs and views provided by Member States were considered positive and extremely useful for the Bureau in preparation of the above-mentioned drafts. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a concise summary of views expressed by Member States at the informal consultation.

In response to the requests by a number of Member States and regional political groups, the Bureau agreed to develop two non-papers consisting of elements for a draft Ministerial Declaration and a draft resolution on the IAF beyond 2015.

The main objectives of sharing these non-papers with Member States are: i) to inform of some key issues, elements and components that could be considered by the Bureau in preparing the relevant zero draft negotiating texts of the Ministerial Declaration and Resolution on the IAF beyond 2015, ii) to help countries, in advance of the UNFF11, to begin internal consultations and coordination on substantive issues related to the Ministerial Declaration and the Resolution.

The Bureau decided to disseminate these non-papers to Member States by 13 April 2015. The Bureau also decided that interested Member States may provide their views on these non-papers to the Secretariat in advance of UNFF11. The Bureau further agreed that the zero draft negotiating texts of the Declaration and Resolution on the IAF beyond 2015 will be submitted to Member States on Wednesday, 6 May 2015, as planned.

## **2. Preparations for the UNFF11**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau on the status of the UNFF11 documentation. Nine documents have been submitted and are available on the UNFF website, including three Reports of the Secretary-General, two reports of the AHEG on the IAF, two Notes by the Secretariat (on the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue and the Forum Trust Fund), an Information Note by the CPF, and a report of the China CLI. The remaining documents include: Report of the Secretary-General on reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options, including the SG's Conclusions and recommendations; and the reports of the Swiss CLI and Major Group-Led Initiative. These documents will be available soon on the UNFF website. Additional background documents are also available on the UNFF website, including the Independent Assessment Report on the IAF and the Update on the Global Environment Facility support for sustainable forest management through GEF-5 SFM/REDD+ Incentive Mechanism.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for timely preparation of the UNFF11 documentation, which would allow sufficient time for Member States to be prepared for a thorough discussion during

UNFF11.

The Bureau also decided to see the need for any adjustment of the organization of work of UNFF11 at its next meeting on 17 April 2015.

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the current status of preparation for the High Level Segment. The concept notes for the two roundtables of the High Level Segment are being prepared, and will be posted on the UNFF website during the week of 16 March. The concept notes include information on the background and objectives of the round tables, as well as information on the modalities for conducting the discussion during the roundtables, including their expected outcomes. Two Co-Facilitators should be designated by the Bureau, one from the North and one from the South, to conduct the discussions for each roundtable.

The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that the list of speakers for the plenary session of the High Level Segment of UNFF11 will be open and posted on the UN Journal, three weeks in advance of UNFF11. Member States are also invited to indicate their interest for participation in one of the round tables, through the procedures that will be announced in the UN Journal.

The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that relevant information on UNFF11, including registration, will be posted on the UNFF website. The Secretariat will also hold a briefing for Member States in New York on the logistical preparations for UNFF11. This briefing will take place in early April 2015.

The Secretariat provided an update on the number and scope of the proposals for the UNFF11 side events. The final list of side events will be posted on the UNFF website in the next two weeks.

### **3. Update on recent and upcoming events**

#### **i) Major Groups-Led Initiative in Nepal**

The Secretariat updated the Bureau on the outcome of a Major Groups-Led Initiative on *Designing vehicles for securing means of implementation of SFM* that took place in Kathmandu, Nepal from 2-6 March 2015. The meeting was organized by the Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF) with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) and technical support from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Approximately 70 representatives of major groups and civil society organizations gathered to review the IAF and develop proposals for the policy and institutional framework for the arrangement beyond 2015. The report of this Major Groups-Led Initiative will be submitted as an official document of the UNFF11.

#### **ii) Briefing on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the current status of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. The first and second sessions took stock of general views and proposals on different components of the agenda, and discussed the declaration component of the outcome document, respectively. The third session will be held from 23-27 March 2015 to consider the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets, including a presentation and

discussion on indicators based on input from the Statistical Commission. To this end, the UNFF Secretariat provided inputs on forest-related targets and indicators through the UN Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda. The zero draft of the outcome document will be made available by May, with a possibility in April, as indicated by the Co-Facilitators at the second session. The draft outcome document will be considered over three sessions from June through July to prepare for the Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held from 25 to 27 September 2015 in New York.

The Secretariat also briefed the Bureau on its activities in various processes within the UN system in promoting integration of forests in the post-2015 development agenda.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the briefing and its efforts in integrating forests in relevant processes related to the post-2015 development agenda. To ensure integration of forests and the outcome of UNFF11 in the ongoing consultation process, the Bureau expressed its interest to hold a meeting with the Co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiation of the outcome document of the post-2015 development agenda, in conjunction with its next meeting.

#### **4. Other matters:**

##### **i) The status of the Trust Fund, including travel support for delegates participating at UNFF11**

The Secretariat provided explanation on the status of funding in the UNFF Trust Fund to support the travel of eligible countries for participation at UNFF11. The Secretariat reminded that the deadline for the request for travel support is 13 March 2015.

##### **ii) Date and venue of the next UNFF11 Bureau meetings**

The Bureau agreed to hold its eighth meeting in New York on 17 April 2015.

*The meeting was concluded at 12:00 pm on 10 March 2015.*