

**United Nations Forum on Forests
Minutes of the Eighth meeting of the UNFF11 Bureau**

**17 April (9:30 am – 1:00 pm and 2 - 9:30 pm, DC2 – 16th Floor, CR-1684)
18 April 2015 (10:00 am - 12:30 pm, DC2 - 23rd Floor)**

UNHQ, New York

Comments by HG 2752015

Participation

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

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, Ms. Mita Sen, Ms. Njeri Kariuki, Mr. Benjamin Singer, Mr. Ryo Nakamura, Mr. Tomasz Juszcak, Ms. Thida Sam

Secretary of the Forum: Mr. Moncef Khane

Deputy Secretary of the Forum: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma

Others: Ambassador Marianne Odette Bibalou and Mr. Hans Martien Diaba (Mission of Gabon), Ms. Emilia Van Veen (Mission of Finland)

Summary of Key Actions/Decisions

- 1. Modifications to the provisional organization of work for UNFF11.**
(http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/session_documents/unff11/UNFF11_OrgWork.pdf)
- 2. Accreditation requests for UNFF11.**
- 3. Finalization of arrangements for the High-level Segment of UNFF11, including the round tables and selection of the co-facilitators.**
- 3. Introduction of the UNFF11 draft Ministerial Declaration and draft Resolution on the IAF beyond 2015 on the morning of Wednesday, 6 May 2015.**

**Provisional Agenda and Annotation
Eighth meeting of the UNFF11 Bureau**

- 1- Preparations for UNFF11**
- 2- Discussion and elaboration on draft Ministerial Declaration and Resolution on the IAF beyond 2015**

The Chair of the UNFF11 Bureau welcomed members of the Bureau to the meeting, and the provisional agenda of the 8th meeting was adopted.

1. Preparations for UNFF11

The Secretariat updated the Bureau on various logistical and technical arrangements for UNFF11, in particular that: (1) all UNFF11 official documentation was available on the UNFF website; (2) the limited funding for travel support for UNFF11 could not cover all travel funding requests; (3) the UN Pass and ID unit will be open from 7:00 am on Monday, 4 May 2015 to enable timely issuance of the ground passes for delegations to attend the opening session of UNFF11; (4) relevant information on UNFF11, including an inscription of the list of speakers for the UNFF11 High Level Segment plenary on 13 May 2015, is available in the UN Journal and the UNFF website; and (5) on 7 April 2015, the Secretariat held a briefing on preparations for UNFF11 for Permanent Missions to the UN in New York.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau on the latest number of confirmed high-level ministerial segment officials.

Accreditation requests from the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat, le Secrétariat Général de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC), and the Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF) were reviewed. The Secretary of the Forum informed the Bureau that EAC and CEEAC are Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) which already have permanent observer status with the General Assembly, and were therefore entitled to attend the UNFF11 session.

Regarding the MGPoF, it was noted that observer status to the Forum has customarily been granted to IGOs and the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21 , and that there were established processes, rules, and procedures for organizations representing these major groups to apply for consultative status with ECOSOC. Noting the important role of stakeholder participation in Forum discussions, the Bureau advised that representatives of the MGPoF should attend the forthcoming session under the accreditation status of its individual members.

The Bureau discussed on the organization of work, including allocating sufficient time for WG2 on Resolution on the IAF beyond 2015. The Bureau made minor modifications to the organization of work of UNFF11 to enable sufficient time for discussions and direct interaction among participants in UNFF11. In particular, provisions were made to enable continuation of general statements during the Tuesday, 5 May afternoon session.

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on preparations for the High Level Segment (HLS). The concept notes for the two roundtables of the High Level Segment have been prepared as scheduled, and are available online on the UNFF website. The list of speakers for the plenary session of the High Level Segment of UNFF11 has been open since 8 April 2015, through procedures that have been announced in the UN Journal.

To allow broader participation of Member States and other stakeholders, the Bureau decided to hold consecutive HLS round tables, and agreed on the timing as reflected in the updated provisional organization of work. It was agreed that the Chair of UNFF11 would serve as a Co-Facilitator for the HLS round tables. Another Co-Facilitator for the HLS round tables will be designated at a later stage.

2. Discussion and elaboration on the draft Ministerial Declaration and Resolution on the IAF beyond 2015

The Bureau further discussed and considered the elements for inclusion in UNFF11 of the draft Ministerial Declaration and UNFF11 draft Resolution. The Bureau decided that it would continue working on the drafts and would take into account major points arising from discussions on the first two days of the Forum. In this regard, the Bureau re-confirmed its earlier decision to introduce the drafts to Member States of the Forum on Wednesday, 6 May in the morning informal plenary session.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm on 18 April 2015.