

United Nations Forum on Forests
Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Bureau of the Tenth Session
19 and 20 November 2012 - New York

Participation

Bureau members: Mr. Mario Ruales Carranza (Ecuador), Mr. Srecko Juricic (Croatia), Ms. Shuli Davidovich (Israel), Mr. Saiful Azam Martinus Abdullah (Malaysia)

Ms. Anna Masinga, the Bureau Member

Agenda of the Fourth Meeting of the UNFF10 Bureau

19 November 2012: 9:30 am-1 pm

20 November 2012: 10 am-1 pm

DC2- 19th Floor, Room DC2-1949- New York

1. **Welcome to UNFF10 Bureau** – Chairman Mr. Mario Ruales
2. **Secretariat Update and Agenda Overview** – Director Jan McAlpine
3. **Preparations for the Tenth session of the UNFF (UNFF10)**
 - a. *Note Verbale by the UNFFS on AHEG2, UNFF10, national reporting, MDGs, IYF*
 - b. *Update on the finalization of the host country agreement with the Government of Turkey*
 - c. *Logistical Preparations*
 - d. *Preliminary “Organization of Work”*

1. Welcome to the UNFF Bureau

Mr Ruales, Chair of the UNFF10 Bureau, thanked the Bureau members for their contributions and participation in the Bureau meeting, Mr Altay Altınörs (Turkey), as well as Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Mr Paulino Franco de Carvalho Neto and Mr Jan Heino as co-chairs of AHEG1 and 2, in his opening remarks for their attendance, along with the UNFF Secretariat for organizing the meeting. The Chair congratulated the UNFF on the success of the Rome OLI held in September 2012 and emphasized the heavy schedule of meetings for the period leading up to UNFF10 as well as the need to bring the post-Rio and post-2015 Development Agenda into UNFF discussions.

2. Secretariat Update and Agenda Overview

Mr Ruales then invited Ms Jan McAlpine, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, to give the Bureau an overview of the Agenda. Ms McAlpine also welcomed the Bureau members, co-chairs of AHEG1 and 2 and Mr Altay Altınörs to the Secretariat and provided an overview of the agenda of the meeting. The Chair then presented the provisional agenda for the fourth meeting to the Bureau, which was adopted.

3. Preparations for the Tenth Session of the UNFF (UNFF10)

- a. Note Verbale by the UNFFS on AHEG2, UNFF10, national reporting, MDGs, IYF

The UNFF staff said that a note verbale was sent out on 25 June 2012 to all Permanent Missions in New York, as well as by e-mail to the UNFF national focal points. In this note verbale, information was provided on the dates and venues for the OLI, AHEG2 and UNFF10. Transmitting the new national reporting format with this Note, Member States were also requested to provide by 30 September 2012 nominations for AHEG2, views on the post 2015, submission of national reports, inputs on their IYF activities and updated information on national focal points. Requests for regional and subregional inputs were made separately.

- b. Update on the finalization of the Host Country Agreement with the Government of Turkey

UNFF Staff informed the Bureau of the latest progress in regard to the Host Country Agreement with Turkey which is in its final stages. Mr Altay Altınörs indicated that it is likely the CHA will be signed by the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations in New York.

- c. Logistical Preparations

UNFF staff informed the Bureau that the venue of UNFF10 will be the Lutfi Kirdar Convention and Exhibition Centre (LKCC) in Istanbul. The Prime Minister of Turkey will host and invite the Secretary General and the President of the Genera

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On this last point, Ms McAlpine replied that a representative from FAO/UNECE could be a part of the panel on forest and economic development so to share the findings of this study with the Forum. Moreover, if this study can be submitted soon to us, there might be the possibility to take advantage of its findings in the preparation for the Secretary General's Report on Forests and Economic Development. This provides the basis for FAO and UNECE representatives could then be invited to participate in the round table or panel designed to discuss this issue. The Bureau welcomed these suggestions and also pointed out the possibility for the authors of this study to organize a side event during UNFF10.

On the involvement of major groups, Ms McAlpine emphasized the UNFF practice to fully involve major groups in the discussions of the Forum. She pointed out this was the reason that the multistakeholder dialogue was created. She also expressed hope that in Istanbul there will be even more opportunity for delegations to attend the multi-stakeholder dialogue, if facilitated by the regional representatives on the Bureau. McAlpine also requested that the Bureau members speak to groups about this .

The Bureau agreed to discuss further at its next meeting the suggestion to hold informal meetings with Major Groups once each week during the tenth session.

The Bureau also requested that the details related to information flows be discussed during a future Bureau meeting, including an online communications system (such as an e-Room) which participants can access using a password.

e. Status of UNFF10 Documentation

The UNFF Secretariat informed the Bureau that preparation of the UNFF10 documents is underway. 45 national, regional and subregional reports have been received so far, using the new reporting format developed recently through four workshops. Analyses of these reports will be the basis of the Secretary General report on the assessment of the implementation of the forest instrument in the tenth session. Expert consultants are working on the background studies on the theme "forests and economic development". The findings of these studies will inform the relevant Secretary General reports to UNFF10. Major Groups are also coordinating their inputs, and they are planning to provide one consolidated paper to UNFF10. Official documents for the tenth session are expected to be ready by the end of January 2013 and will be posted on the UNFF website as advance unedited documents. On the UNFF website, many background and intersessional documents on forest financing can already be found.

The AHEG1 Co-Chair inquired about how UNFF10 will contribute to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This will be an important reason for holding the Ministerial Segment at UNFF10. Mr Moeini-Meybodi pointed out that these points and their impacts on the international arrangement on forests will be addressed through the Secretary General's Report on Emerging Issues, as well as during a ministerial roundtable on the same themes at UNFF10.

The UNFF Secretariat also clarified that all issues related to the road map to UNFF11 on the international arrangement on forests (IAFs), as agreed by the Bureau in its third meeting, as well as the interconnections of IAFs, Rio+20 outcome and the post 2015 UN Development Agenda will be addressed in the Secretary General Report on Emerging Issues. In addition, the Forum will also hold discussion on these issues both during the Ministerial Segment and in the working group.

The Bureau agreed these are significant issues for UNFF10.

- f. UNFF10 knowledge management, including media

Due to lack of time and the absence of the UNFF Secretariat team leader on this subject, the Bureau agreed to discuss this matter at its next meeting.

4. UNFF Forest Finance Intersessional Activities

The UNFF Secretariat updated the Bureau of UNFF10 on the progress in intersessional activities on forest financing.

- a. Facilitative Process Meetings on Forest Financing in SIDS and LFCCs

The SIDS-LFCC project has entered its third and last stage. The four work

The Director pointed out, however, that the major work in doing this fell to the UNFF Secretariat. Such impacts need to be considered when inviting the CPF to take substantive actions. Otherwise, this can be an unfounded mandate. FAO is in agreement on this.

d. 2012 AGF Study on Forest Financing

The CPF Advisory Group on Finance (AGF) Study on Forest Financing was first discussed during the Organization-Led Initiative in September 2012 in Rome. This study and its findings have been well received by countries and organizations and different stakeholders. The study will be also submitted officially to AHEG2. It is anticipated that follow-up interactive discussion and more in-depth discussions will take place during AHEG2.

e. Studies on REDD+ Implications on Forest Financing

Two studies were commissioned, one on the impacts of the price of forest carbon on forest financing (funded by the Government of Norway) and the other on the broader implications of REDD+ on forest financing. The expert meeting that was supposed to be held on 30 October to review these studies was cancelled due to severe weather and was replaced with a teleconference on 15 November. Feedback on the second study suggested that further work is required, but there will be a presentation on the findings of the first study during AHEG2.

f. Compilation of Substantive Submission by Countries on Forest Financing

This compilation is submitted in response to paragraph 24 of the UNFF9 Resolution. Nine inputs from the G77, the European Union, Japan, Norway, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Guyana, Finland and Switzerland were received by the due date of 30 April 2012. The UNFF home page now houses all major information on AHEG2.

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The Secretariat also pointed out that in accordance to the UNFF9 resolution, there should be a discussion during AHEG2 on the progress made on developing and implementing national forest policy and policy instruments on all types of forests and trees outside of forests, the full suite of functions of forests and trees. The Secretariat urged the Bureau Members to encourage Member States to make short presentations on these impacts during AHEG2.

There was a discussion among the Bureau Members and AHEG Co-Chairs on the need for the UNFF Secretariat to prepare a background note to AHEG2 explaining the different processes related to the Rio+20 and the post-2015 UN Development Agenda so as to provide information for those who are not familiar with these processes. Ms McAlpine suggested having this in the form of a Secretariat's note for AHEG2. The Secretary General's Paper on Emerging Issues in preparation for UNFF10 would then incorporate elements of this note. This suggestion was adopted as a decision of the Bureau.

The UNFF10 Bureau also warmly thanked Finland for its contribution of Euro 100.000 to support the participation of eligible countries in AHEG2, and other intersessional activities. The Secretariat noted the need for another \$150.000 for this purpose.

5. Update on the Work of the UNFF on Forests and Economic Development

The Secretariat provided an overview of its preparatory work on the main theme of UNFF10. Three expert studies were commissioned to provide background on this theme: Economic Contributions of Forests, Cross-Sectoral Linkages, and Forests in a Future World. The texts are

6. Recent and Upcoming Events

a. Ukraine Country-Led Initiative

The Secretariat informed the Bureau of UNFF10 on the outcome of the Lviv Forum on Forests in a Green Economy. This meeting welcomed over 130 participants and focused regionally on Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The CLI's themes included forest governance in a green economy, sustainable forest industries and products, forest ecosystem services and the role of forests in low carbon economies, and employment and livelihood opportunities in the forest sector.

The key messages identified in this meeting are as follows: capture the true value of forests, use resources efficiently, be energy-wise, make jobs decent and green, address threats to forests, define governance principles and stick to them, update skills, innovate and build partnerships, cooperate across boundaries and make the case for the forest sector's role in a green economy. The CLI specifically developed global actions for consideration by UNFF10.

b. CPF Meeting in Rome

CPF Members met in September 2012 in Rome. The CPF reviewed its contribution to AHG2 and UNFF10, especially as the CPF will have its own implementation documents for activities in 2011 and 2012. The CPF also discussed and agreed on follow-up actions on Rio+20 and the post-2015 UN Development Agenda, and agreed that the UNFF secretariat will be the lead agency on this for the CPF.

c. 11th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity

COP 11 was held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October 2012. Key issues and outcomes include capacity building, technology transfer, the effects of climate change, cooperation with international organizations and especially financing – in particular around the GEF. Heated discussions took place on the CBD budget. However, a successful agreement was reached on increasing the number of countries that had included biodiversity in their national action plans with a deadline of 2015. Also, it was decided that funding to developing countries would be doubled by 2020 to meet the Aichi Targets. In an interesting development, 20 African countries pledged financial and in-kind support for the CBD.

The CBD was also successful in recognizing the work between the CBD and UNFF Secretariat, particularly with regard to the MoU signed between the two secretariats. The COP supported further work to enhance cooperation between the two and to address at issues beyond UNFF10 and relating to the post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

d. Landscape Day (Forests and Agriculture)

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that during the last five UNFCCC CoPs, there has been five Forest Days together with four Agriculture Days. For the first time, these two days will be under one banner which is : Living Landscape: at the next UNFCCC/COP. This will take place on 2 and 3 December 2012 in Doha, Qatar. The aim is to address forests, agriculture, food security, landscapes and rural development in a cross-cutting and cross-institutional approach. The intent is to look at a systems view that covers the full landscape. The organization of the Landscape Day is thanks to the World Bank, the UNFF Secretariat and CIFOR, together with FAO. It is hoped that

this will provide a pioneering way of collaborating more closely with agriculture partners, among others.

7. Future Meetings of the Bureau

The Secretariat suggested that the Bureau of UNFF10 meet on a daily basis during AHEG2 to follow and monitor the discussions. It was also suggested that the fifth substantive meeting of the Bureau to be held in February 2013 in New York, when all UNFF10 documentation is ready. The following meeting of the Bureau was suggested to be held on 7 April 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. According to the practice, the Bureau will also meet daily during UNFF10 session. The Bureau agreed with the suggested planning for its future meetings.

8. Other Matters

Ms McAlpine announced the following:

- ECOSOC has invited comments by the UNFF Bureau on inputs to the post-2015 UN Development Agenda. So far only Argentina and Ukraine have sent their submissions which Mr Ruales will send to ECOSOC.
- A draft resolution is under negotiation in the General Assembly on the International Day of Forests and Trees. The UNFF Secretariat and FAO have been working on this issue. Much of the work has developed to the UNFF Secretariat, but Ms McAlpine pointed out that voluntary contributions would be required in order to fulfill these additional responsibilities. The UNFF Secretariat requests that should these contributions be voluntary, then they would need to be made before work begins on this issue, and staff support would also be necessary. The 2nd Committee of the General Assembly made these amendments.

Note: An International Day of Forests will take place every year on 21 March 2012.

- Ms. McAlpine also urged the Bureau Members to begin consulting with their respective regions on the members for the UNFF11 Bureau. A letter will be prepared before the February meeting of the Bureau and will be sent by the Chair to UN regional groups to request nomination of their representatives for the Bureau of UNFF11. It is of particular importance to have a fully f