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- a. Staffing of UNFFS, and Trust

On the proposed date and venue for the AHEG-1, the secretariat referred to the discussion during the last meeting of the Bureau on the preference to have the first meeting of AHEG in Nairobi or Santiago, and to organize the working modality of the AHEG-1 in a non-traditional manner. The secretariat informed the Bureau that the first half of September 2010 was basically the only opportunity before UNFF9 for holding the AHEG-1, and after checking with various UN venues, Nairobi was the only place that could offer conference services during that period. Therefore, the first meeting of the AHEG will be held from 6 to 10 September 2010 in Nairobi. [NOTE: After notifying Bureau Members, the dates of the AHEG-1 will now be 13-17 September 2010]

The secretariat also pointed out that during the period leading up to the first AHEG substantive inputs on forest financing experiences, needs, opportunities and challenges are expected to be prepared by countries, forest regional processes, CPF member organizations, and major groups. In addition, a secretariat note will include initial results of the FP, and a number of voluntary country case studies were proposed for presentation during the workshops and panels t AHEG-1. Furthermore, to involve forest regional processes in the preparatory work for the AHEG-1, an informal meeting among some leaders of forest regional processes is being planned for June 2010 in New York. To further facilitate the UNFF work on forest financing, it was proposed to appoint two Co-Chairs for the entire four year UNFF work on forest financing, one each from the South and the North. The main topics for discussion in AHEG-1, according to the work plan, would include forest financing experiences, actions at national, regional, international levels, forest financing and the importance of forests in achieving the MDGs, the role of non-forest sectors and institutions in financing forests, and some features of forest financing strategy (ies) and mechanisms.

The secretariat added that the outcome of the AHEG-1 is proposed to be a Co-Chairs summary which will be presented to UNFF9. This outcome should include AHEG recommendations to UNFF9 on intersessional activities for the period between AHEG-1 and 2. The intersessional activities could include possible country, regional or organization –led initiatives on issues relevant to forest financing. The secretariat also mentioned that during this period, the results of the work of the FP would be provided to the Forum and based on its guidance the FP might be requested

Decision: The Bureau endorsed the UNFF/WP/FF as the basis for planning the UNFF work on forest financing, and for the secretariat to start the preparatory work for AHEG-1 on this basis. The Bureau decided that the AHEG-1 would be held from 6-10 [now changed to 13-17] September 2010 in Nairobi. The Bureau also agreed the two Co-Chairs, from the South and one from the North should run the four-year process, and the Bureau Members after consultation and within the next two weeks would inform the secretariat and the Bureau of their possible nominees. The Bureau aims at taking the decision on the appointments for the two co-chairs by 20 April 2010.

b. Update on the work of the Facilitative Process

The secretariat informed the Bureau that the UNFF secretariat initiated the Facilitative Process (FP), immediately after the adoption of the Resolution by UNFF9 Special Session (30 October 2009). A project entitled “Facilitating Financing for Sustainable Forest Management in SIDS and LFCCs” with three components has begun with funding support from UK/DFID and the GEF.

The first component, with a target of completion in June 2010, consisted of the development of both indicative country case-studies and macro-level papers on financing SFM in SIDS and LFCCs. This component is already underway and a consultant has been contracted to carry out these studies. The second and third components were in preparation and focus on sharing the findings with member state representatives, other stakeholders, donors and CPF members through a series of workshops, verifying the assessments in the papers and identifying further point and work to be carried out, but also in underscoring the most cogent points and points which extend to other countries. These workshops will serve to diffuse results more widely, and well as reporting to UNFF10. The scope of the FP is currently limited to two of the eight categories of countries identified in the Resolution, but the potential for further work of this type is there, dependent on the interest of member states and donors.

The Bureau thanked the secretariat for briefing, expressed support for the FP and asked the Secretariat for further information on why the FP work focused on SIDS and LFCCs.

Ms. McAlpine thanked the Bureau for its support, and pointed out that the FP work on the LFCCs and SIDs was based on the categories of countries identified in the resolution of the UNFF9 Special Session. These two groups experienced the historic 20-year decline in forest financing, but have also been identified as among the least likely of groups of countries to access financing for SFM in the near term. In addition, she pointed out, this first initiative is just the start of the work of the FP, and the FP work could be further expanded to include other category of countries if financial resources would be made available.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the progress report by the secretariat Tc.09trid9.9.9.4054fFn:

categories of countries and also recognized the need for Bureau Members to play a more active role in attracting resources for the FP to cover other groups of countries.

3. Preparations for the Ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests:

The secretariat briefed the Bureau on preparatory activities for the UNFF9. The Bureau was informed that apart from routine reports e.g. means of implementation, and enhanced cooperation, major work of the UNFF9 is in its overall theme “Forests for people livelihoods and poverty eradication”, the High Level Segment (HLS), the International Year of Forests (IYF) and the mid-term review of the implementation of the Non Legally Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI).

a. Documentations and the expected outcomes

The secretariat informed the Bureau that apart from AHEG documents, there were sixteen papers that have to be prepared for the UNFF9. The main theme of the UNFF9 is “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication” with three sub-themes: Social and cultural aspects, Community-based forest management, and Social development and indigenous communities and other local and forest dependent communities, including land tenure. The discussion in the UNFF9 would be shaped around three substantive Secretary General’s Reports (SGR) as background and one report that contain the SG recommendations on the overall theme and sub-themes:

- i) The SGR on social and cultural aspects of forests will be aimed at providing opportunities to raise the profile of the social and cultural aspects of forests by: articulating the significant role of forests including the NLBI and the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) for achieving MDGs and exploring their potential to increase the weight of social and cultural aspects of forests; building on the momentum of the 2010 MDGs/High Level Plenary Meeting (MDGs/HLPM) and providing concrete suggestions to raise the profile of social contributions of forests as inputs to the Rio+20 and the 2015 review of the international arrangement on forests.
- ii) The SGR on the community based forest management would take stock of the extent of community forestry, its evolution and the opportunities it offered for advancing the NLBI and financing for SFM.
- iii) The SGR on social development & indigenous and other local and forest dependent communities would pave the way for a thorough discussion on social integration of, job creation for, and poverty eradication among forest-dependent communities including the Indigenous Peoples (IPs). The report would also address associated policy issues such as land tenure rights, REDD+ and empowerment of women.

The secretariat emphasized that these reports would provide a solid ground for the UNFF9 to shape a people-centered approach to forests at the highest political levels. The discussion would also serve as a link to the theme of the UNFF10 on the economic aspects of forests, and might provide direction for the secretariat in intersessional work in support of the UNFF 10.

Regarding mid-term review, Ms. McAlpine mentioned that case studies such as the one carried out jointly by Germany and FAO on the implementation of the NLBI in Ghana, and additional input, e. g. by the NFP Facility could provide sound information for the Forum to have a mid-term review.

Specific mandated panel on food and energy by the UNFF8 as well as panel on regional experiences will be organized during UNFF 9 session.

The Bureau thanked the secretariat for the briefing.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the progress report on the preparation for the UNFF9 documentation, and decided to review this item at its next meeting.

b. Proposed Initial Work Program including for the HLS

In accordance with the multi year program of work of the Forum, the UNFF9 will include a High Level Segment (HLS). The HLS will offer an opportunity for strengthening political commitment to sustainable forest management, and to engage at the highest political level, including highlighting points to other important global events. The HLS

c. Comprehensive road map of activities leading to the UNFF9 including calendar of major events

An updated roadmap of activities was provided by the secretariat to the Bureau.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the roadmap, and requested the secretariat to update the roadmap regularly.

4- Recent and upcoming events

a. CPF activities

The CPF member organization representatives held a meeting in Feb. 2010 in Rome in which the UNFFS Director participated as one of the member representatives. The Bureau was briefed on the discussions and the major results of this meeting, and took note of the secretariat report.

b. Upcoming CLIs in 2010

The Bureau received a progress report by the secretariat staff on the upcoming Workshop on Forest governance, decentralization and REDD in Latin America, a Country Led Initiative by the Governments of Switzerland and Mexico to be held from 31 August to 3 September 2010. This CLI aims to further improve understanding on how decentralization and broader forest governance reforms contribute to SFM, as well as to the improvement of living conditions for people who depend on forests, taking into account the realities of the region. The secretariat mentioned that the venue of the workshop would be decided soon. The secretariat informed the Bureau of the intention of the organizers to invite all members of the Bureau and, in case funds were available, provide financial support for the travel of Bureau members.

Further initiatives mentioned were a Major Group workshop planned to be held in Accra, Ghana, later this year, in preparation for UNFF9, and a proposal by the Netherlands for a

However, she also cautioned at not having a too formal or re

a number of launch events that are being planned during the course of the UNFF9 session, including the launch of a UN Stamp series commemorating the IYF. The secretariat also pointed out that a Note Verbal will be sent soon to the Missions in NY inviting them to nominate IYF National Focal Points, and to provide their input for the Secretary General's report to the upcoming General Assembly.

Ms. McAlpine stressed the huge potential for planning more activities for the IYF. However, the ability of the secretariat is restricted due to limited resources available for this purpose. To this end, she underlined, more support is needed from key countries. She also proposed that some key countries from developing and developed countries become the champions for the IYF, including in the adoption of a resolution during the upcoming General Assembly on this issue.

The Bureau thanked the secretariat for the comprehensive preparations for the IYF. The Bureau emphasized the IYF will be a unique opportunity to attract ministerial or higher level participation in the UNFF9 High Level Segment. For these reasons, the Bureau stressed the need to communicate as early as possible with Member States on the IYF. The Bureau also stressed the need to find ways to attract more political and financial support for the planned activities, and supported proposals by Ms. McAlpine to have some countries as the champions for the IYF, as there was similar successful experience

a) Staffing of UNFFS, and Trust Fund including travel support for the Bureau

Under this agenda item, the Bureau was briefed on the latest information on the UNFF Trust Fund, resources available for its future meetings as well as the gradual decrease in the number of Junior Professionals (JP) and seconded secretariat members to the UNFF Secretariat. Currently, there is no JP (though Finland has now promised one for the next three years) and there is only one secretariat staff seconded from ITTO, but with limited funding for extended stay on the UNFF Secretariat staff. The Director reminded the Bureau that the General Assembly deliberatively designed the Secretariat to depend on voluntary resources (Trust Fund contributions) and secondments as a way to supplement its work, rather than developing a large new bureaucracy in the United Nations. While that is fine in theory, in practice the experience demonstrated in the presentation falls far short of the requires needed for adequate staff support, particularly in light of the growing importance of forests in climate change and with the significant new tasks associated with the financing decision of the UNFF9 at its Special Session in October 2009. The secretariat urged the Bureau Members to take an active role in reaching out donors and mobilizing resources to support the work of the secretariat in particular in regard to its administrative costs as well as on secondment. She also mentioned that the structure of three to four year MOUs was attractive to a number of Donors and that this framing mechanism provides a way to more easily facilita