1 | Page

United Nations Forum on Forests
Minutes of the 4
th
 Meeting of the Bureau of the Thirteenth Session
4
 g Tf
10
/F2 12 Tf
1 0 0 1 201.89 62.86 Tm
0 g
0 G
 -0.0462 58..62 ay8* n
BT
/F2 12 Tf
1 0 0 1 231.2
[(g Tf
10
/F2 12 Tf
1 0 0 1 201.85612)] 67.912 0 612 792 re

2 | Page

Provisional Agenda
4
th
 Meeting of the UNFF13 Bureau
10:00 am- 1:00 pm, 4 May 2018
DC2-23
rd
 floor, UNFFS Office, New York

1- Update on the final preparations for UNFF13

a) Reviewing the organization of work for UNFF13, including the arrangements for the
opening session, ministerial roundtable, side events, etc.;

b) Substantive outcomes of the Forum, issues for inclusion in the omnibus resolution,
and the arrangement for conducting informal consultations;

c) Division of work among Bureau members;

d) Nomination of the Members of UNFF14-15 Bureau

2- One-day forest event on 8 July 2018

3- Other matters

3 | Page

Ambassador Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, Chair of the UNFF13 Bureau, welcomed
members of the Bureau, Secretary of the Forum and the Secretariat to the fourth meeting of
the UNFF13 Bureau. Upon his invitation, the provisional agenda of the fourth Bureau meeting
was adopted.
1. Update on the final preparations for UNFF13
a. Reviewing the organization of work for UNFF13, including the arrangements for the
opening session, ministerial roundtable, side events, etc.;
The Bureau reviewed the organization of work of UNFF13 with briefing from the Secretariat on
arrangements for discussion of the Forum on each agenda item. The Secretariat also briefed
the Bureau on the arrangement for the opening session, ministerial roundtable and panel
sessions, as well as the schedule of side events. Secretary of the Forum also informed the
Bureau on the relevant procedures in the event of a request for inclusion of an additional
agenda item related to ongoing DESA reform.
Regarding the voluntary announcement of the voluntary national contributions (VNCs)
towards achieving the Global Forest Goals and targets, the Secretariat informed the Bureau
that 5 countries had communicated their intent to announce their VNCs at UNFF13, and there
would be additional countries to announce their VNCs.

b. Substantive outcomes of the Forum

The Bureau agreed that there would be two substantive outcomes for the session: i) A Chair’s
summary of discussions of ministerial roundtable and Tuesday morning plenary session, which
would serve as the input of UNFF13 to the HLPF 2018 in view of its review of a number of
forest-related SDGs and, ii) an omnibus resolution to include policy decisions by the Forum on
a number of agenda items in accordance with the four-year programme of the work of the
Forum. In this regard, the Bureau further considered that the omnibus resolution could
include issues related to: i) communication and outreach strategy; ii) guidelines for the
operation of the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and measures to increase
its efficiency and effectiveness; and iii) format and cycle for voluntary national reporting to the
Forum on progress towards implementation of the UNSPF, including the UNFI and VNCs,
among others.
The Bureau stressed the importance of preparing and circulating the draft Chair’s summary
and the draft omnibus resolution by Thursday evening to facilitate consideration by Members
of the Forum. The Bureau also invited the CPF to present its work plan in advance of its
presentation and discussion scheduled on 10 May.

c. Division of work among Bureau members

The Bureau discussed the work assignment of its members during UNFF13 and appointment of
the Rapporteur of UNFF13. Secretary of the Forum informed the Bureau that based on the

4 | Page

informal rotation among Bureau members, and in reference to the agreement during the fifth
meeting of the UNFF12 Bureau on 30 April 2017, the Vice-Chair from the Latin America and
the Caribbean should assume as the Rapporteur of UNFF13. In this regard, the Bureau agreed
that Ms. Luciana Melchert Saguas Presas, Bureau member from Latin America and the
Caribbean Group, to be the Rapporteur of UNFF13.

d. Nomination of the Members of UNFF14-15 Bureau

Secretary of the Forum informed the Bureau that a reminder has been sent to all UN regional
groups to nominate their endorsed candidates for the UNFF14-15 Bureau, but, no nomination
had been received as of this time. He further informed the Bureau that the Chair of UNFF 14-
15, would be from the Eastern European Group, and it was important the election of the new
Chair to be done at the first meeting of UNFF14, which was scheduled on 11 May immediately
after the conclusion of UNFF13.

2. One-day forest event on 8 July 2018
The secretariat reminded the Bureau of its prior discussions and agreement on holding a one-day forest event on 8 July 2018, at UNHQ in New York, prior to the High-Level Political Forum
on Sustainable Development 2018. The Bureau reaffirmed the importance of moving ahead
with organization of this event, and invited Members of the Forum to consider co-sponsoring,
and participating in this event. In this regard, Secretariat informed the Bureau that after
conclusion of UNFF13, information about this event would be communicated UNFF13
participants, Permanent Missions in NY, and UNFF National Focal Points.

Other matters
The Bureau inquired about the status of the DESA reform. Director of the UNFF Secretariat
informed that the DESA reform proposal would likely be included in the Secretary-General’s
proposal on the UN reform for consideration by Member States. In this regard, members of
the Bureau stressed that should this issue to be raised at the session, it would be necessary to
seek more information on the potential implications of DESA reform on the UNFF and its
Secretariat, including on the integrity and independence of the subprogramme on sustainable
forest management, as well as possible negative impacts on the budget and staffing level of
the Forum Secretariat.
In light of the retirement of the UNFFS Director, the Bureau expressed appreciation to Mr.
Sobral Manoel Filho for his outstanding contribution and service to the work of the Forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.