

United Nations Forum on Forests

**First Meeting of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the
International Arrangement on Forests**

Agenda Item 4: Introduction of the official documents by Mr. Hossein Meini Meybodi

UNFF Secretariat

Monday 24 February 2014

Dear Colleagues,

- There are three official documents for this meeting:
- The provisional agenda and annotations are contained in document E/CN.18/AEG/2014/1, the Secretariat Note is contained in document E/CN.18/AEG/2014/2, and the Compilation of Member States and stakeholder views and proposals on the IAF are contained in document E/CN.18/2014/INF1. All three documents have been made available on the UNFF website and are contained in the Information CD prepared for this meeting, which also contains other useful background documents related to the IAF.
- Hard copies of the provisional agenda and Secretariat Note have been distributed. Due the length of the compilation (285 pages) it was not possible to distribute hard copies of this document.

contribute to the work of the UNFF individually and collectively; regional organizations and processes; and Major Groups who take part in the Forum's sessions. The IAF also includes implementation of the resolutions of the Forum, as well as the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

carrying out an independent assessment of the IAF, and (iii) holding a maximum of two meetings of the ad hoc expert group to review all inputs, and to discuss the issues and submit its recommendations on the future of the IAF to UNFF11.

- To solicit views and proposals on the IAF, UNFFS prepared a questionnaire which was sent to countries and other stakeholders in June 2013. The submitted views are contained in the compilation which includes views from 46 countries, one from the EU and 2 views from Major Groups. The quantity and quality of the submitted views provides a good indication of the high level of interest, and importance that Members assign to work of the Forum and the IAF review process.
- The terms of reference for the consultants and the co-facilitators for the independent assessment of the IAF were finalized by the UNFF11 Bureau in June 2013. Members of the IAF independent assessment Team are here with us and will soon present a progress report on their work.
- With the convening of the first meeting of the AHEG, we are fully on track and making substantive and timely progress in implementing the IAF intersessional activities, as agreed by UNFF10.
- In addition to these activities, the Secretariat is also engaged in other intersessional activities such as preparing a format for national reporting to UNFF11. You will hear more about this later this week.
- Apart from the IAF review process, there are other important ongoing processes that are closely relevant to the IAF review, namely the SDG and the post 2015 development agenda.
-

- This is an important input by the CPF members