

**Briefing Sessions by the UNFF Secretariat
On the UNFF Strategic Work Plan on Forest Financing,
and preparations for the first meeting of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental
Ad Hoc Expert Group on Sustainable Forest Management Financing (AHEG)**

Background

Forest finance has been one of the most complex issues in the international forest policy debate over the last 17 years in the UN. In 2007, the General Assembly adopted the Non Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI) and the four Global Objectives on Forests therein, (GOFs) which was a major breakthrough to address sustainable forest management financing. By adopting the resolution on means of implementation on sustainable forest management (MOI/SFM) , the UNFF9 Special Session in 2009 agreed on a strategic path to address forest financing¹, and established two significant processes: the Open Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG), and the Facilitative Process (FP).

The UNFF Strategic Work Plan on Forest Financing

After the adoption of the resolution on MOI/SFM by the UNFF9 Special Session, in particular in the last two months, Secretariat has received several requests from Member States calling for information on the status of planning for the next four years on SFM financing (2010-2013) as well as the preparation for the AHEG-1 and the work of the FP.

To effectively respond to these requests for information, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, prepared the UNFF Strategic Work Plan on Forest Financing (UNFF/SWP/FF). The UNFF9 Bureau during its recent meeting (2 March 2010-NY) endorsed the UNFF/SWP/FF, as the basis for planning the next four year activities on SFM financing, with the possibility of making further adjustment in the future. The UNFF/SWP/FF contains a wide range of suggested activities to be carried out by relevant stakeholders from now and until the UNFF10. The UNFF/SWP/FF aims to outline the different roles and responsibilities of Member States, the FP, the UNFFS, the CPF, regional processes as well as other key actors during the four year period.

Preparation for AHEG-1

At its third meeting last week, the UNFF9 Bureau also decided on the date and venue of the AHEG-1 and other organizational matters.

The objective of the Briefing Sessions

In light of the important decisions made by the UNFF9 Bureau on the above-mentioned issues, and in view of several requests by Member States to convene separate briefing sessions for regional political groups, the UNFF Secretariat is convening these briefing sessions in order to inform Member States of the latest developments in sustainable forest management financing for the next four years which also includes the AHEG-1. The briefing will be conducted by Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director of the UNFF Secretariat, and other Secretariat's staff, and will include a power point presentation.

Date and venue of Briefing Sessions

The briefing sessions will be held on Wednesday 10 March 2010 in Conference Room 8 in the UNHQ as follows: 10-11 a.m. for the G77 and China, 11 a.m.- 12 for the EU, 12 -13 p.m. for Countries with Economies in Transition, and 13:15- 2:15 p.m. for JUSCANZ.

¹ E/CN.18/SS2009/L.1