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Ad hoc expert group on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting

United Nations Forum on Forests

Geneva, 8-12 December 2003

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Opening of the ad hoc expert group meeting
2. Election of the Chairperson
3. Adoption of the agenda and the organization of work
4. Tasks of the ad hoc expert group
5. Other matters
6. Adoption of the report of the ad hoc expert group

Annotations

1. Opening of the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting

The Coordinator and Head of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests will open the meeting.

2. Election of the Chairperson

In ECOSOC decision 2003/299 of 25 July 2003 that established the ad hoc expert group, it stated that the Chairperson of the ad hoc expert group shall be elected from among the experts.

3. Adoption of the Agenda and the Organisation of Work

In order to facilitate the work of the expert group, the provisional agenda and the draft organization of work of the meeting are tabled for consideration.

The expert group may wish to consider and adopt the agenda and the organization of work. The expert group may also wish to elect a rapporteur and establish a

drafting group(s) to assist the Chairperson in preparing a draft report of the expert group.

4. Tasks of the ad hoc expert group

- a. Assess existing reporting requirements as well as monitoring and assessment procedures under relevant international conventions, processes, instruments and organizations related to forests.**
- b. Propose ways for the Forum to monitor and assess progress**

It may be noted that the expert group should propose ways to monitor and assess progress based on: voluntary reporting by countries, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and other relevant organizations and international and regional processes on implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action; ongoing work on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management being undertaken at the national, regional and international levels; and existing data and information as well as reporting systems and structures;

- c. Propose an outline for voluntary reporting to the Forum.**
- d. Recommend options for drawing upon the reports provided to Forum sessions to identify trends and lessons learned.**
- e. Develop recommendations on how to build capacity in countries.**

In the consideration of the item (e), the expert group should include an examination of ways to increase resources for that goal, for monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account the special needs of developing countries.

Documentation

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2003 (E/2003/INF/?)

Note by the Secretariat on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting. (E/CN.18/AC.1/2003/...)

5. Other Matters

The expert group may wish to discuss other related matters.

6. Adoption of the Report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group

In ECOSOC decision 2003/299, it stated that the proposals and recommendations of the expert group should be provided by consensus, and in the absence of consensus,

the report of the ad hoc expert group shall fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

The same decision also stated that the ad hoc expert group shall prepare its report, taking into consideration the views of all participants and contributions received, and shall submit its report to the Forum at its fourth session for consideration. The report shall specify the major outcomes of the ad hoc expert group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.