

Ad hoc expert group on the consideration of the content of the non-legally binding instrument

Terms of reference approved by the UNFF7 Bureau (24-25 August 2006)

Scope and work programme

The ad hoc expert group shall provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum for its work on the consideration of the content of the non-legally binding instrument. The work of the ad hoc expert group shall take into account the compilation of the draft indicative elements and other proposals submitted by member States during the sixth session of the Forum, proposals presented afterwards and comments provided by member States regarding all the proposals.

Tasks

The compilation of the draft indicative elements and other proposals submitted by member States during the sixth session of the Forum, further proposals presented afterwards, as well as comments provided by member States regarding all the proposals shall be considered by the ad hoc expert group.

The ad hoc expert group will provide its outputs regarding the content of a non-legally binding instrument for the consideration of the Forum at its seventh session.

Composition and participation

The ad hoc expert group shall be composed of experts designated by Governments of the member States of the Forum.

The Government-designated experts shall have well-recognized scientific and technical expertise on the forest regime and the Rio conventions and knowledge of the intergovernmental forest policy deliberations of IPF, IFF and the Forum.

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests shall be invited to make scientific and technical contributions to the work of the ad hoc expert group in a resource capacity.

Intergovernmental organizations and representatives of major groups, with relevant expertise, may participate in the meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as practices established by the Forum, Commission on Sustainable Development, IPF and IFF. They may be invited to make scientific and technical contributions.

Travel assistance

Travel support and a daily subsistence allowance will be provided to one country expert from each developing country, as well as to one country expert from countries with economies in transition, in the most cost-effective manner, to the maximum extent from the budget, supplemented by voluntary extrabudgetary contributions.

Officers

The Bureau of UNFF7 will act as the Bureau of the ad hoc expert group. As such, the Chairperson of the Bureau will also act as the Chairperson of the ad hoc expert group. The vice-chairs of the Bureau shall chair the break up working groups of the ad hoc expert group, if needed.

Duration of work

The ad hoc expert group will hold one meeting for up to five days and its outputs shall be made available in all official languages before the seventh session of the Forum.

Meeting

The ad hoc expert group will hold one meeting from 11 to 15 December 2006 in New York.

Report

The ad hoc expert group shall adopt a report at its meeting, for submission to the Forum at its seventh session. The report shall specify major outcomes of the ad hoc expert group's "Tasks", as specified above, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.

Secretariat

The Forum secretariat shall serve as the secretariat for the ad hoc expert group.