

Minutes of the

Fourth meeting of the UNFF 4 Bureau UNFF Secretariat, New York

Monday, 12 April 2004 (2:00 – 5:00 pm)

Attendees:

Bureau Members	Mr. Yuriy N. Isakov (Chairperson-designate), Mr. George W. Talbot (Guyana), Mr. Xolisa Mabhongo (South Africa) and Ms. Stephanie J. Caswell (United States of America).
UNFF Secretariat	<i>Regrets:</i> Ngurah Swajaya (Indonesia) Mr. Pekka Patosaari (Coordinator and Head), Mr. Jorge Illueca, Mr. Mahendra Joshi, Ms. Susan Braatz, and Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchil
UNFF Secretary	Mr. Moncef Khane
Others	Mr. Oleg Shamanov (Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation) and Mr. Tri Tharyat (Permanent Mission of Indonesia)

The fourth meeting of the Bureau considered the following agenda items:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Update on the preparations for UNFF 4
3. Matters related to joint bureau meeting with ECOSOC
4. Informal meeting for consultations on the ad hoc expert group meeting on the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests (13 April 2004)
5. Update on the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
6. Other business

1. Adoption of the agenda

Mr. Yuriy Isakov opened the meeting. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda provided to the members by the Secretariat in advance.

2. Update on the preparations for UNFF 4

2.1. Organization of work

The Bureau adopted the organization of work that was circulated among the bureau members last week with a minor change for Friday afternoon, 7 May 2004. It decided not to convene a plenary (as initially planned) but to let each working group review, at the end of the day, the work of the week. This would let the working groups work more efficiently. The Bureau also reaffirmed the suggested division of labour made among the bureau members during the session in Geneva. The division of labour is as follows:

Mr. Yuriy Isakov: Most plenary sessions including the MSD (plenary) and MDG panel
Mr. Xolisa Mobhango: Working Group 1 (TFRK, FRSK, SCAF) and Africa Day
Mr. George Talbot: Working Group 1 (AHEG_FINTEST, MSD 1) and SIDS Day
Ms. Stephanie Caswell: Working Group 2 (C&I, MAR CTD, AHEG_MAR, MSD 2)
Mr. Ngurah Swajaya: Working Group 2 (EC, Review Process)

2.2 Documentation

In total 20 official documents have been prepared for the fourth session. The Bureau expressed its appreciation for the hard work done by the Secretariat, Collaborative Partnership on

Forests (CPF) members and major group focal points in preparing the documents in time. 19 documents are available in all six languages and the 20th one should be available by the end of the week.

3. Matters related to joint Bureau meeting with ECOSOC Bureau

A joint meeting of the two bureaux has been scheduled today from 5 to 6 pm. The Bureau reviewed the mutually agreed agenda for the meeting, which included (1) highlights of UNFF, (2) UNFF contributions to the Millennium Declaration, (3) proposals for future cooperation, and (4) reporting by functional commissions.

4. Informal consultations meeting for consultations on the ad hoc expert group meeting on the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau of the preparations for the informal consultation meeting, scheduled for whole day on 13 April 2003. So far 32 expert nominations and 11 country views have been received. The Bureau discussed various aspects of the ad hoc expert group meeting and possible queries from the representatives of member States. The low rates of submission of nomination and country views were considered to be problematic for the meeting of the ad hoc expert group. The Bureau agreed that Mr. Isakov will lead the discussion on behalf of the bureau and other members will complement with their inputs.

5. Update on the activities the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Mr. Hosny El-Lakany, Chair of the CPF briefed the Bureau about a number of activities being undertaken by CPF members including:

- (i) a proposal by the CPF task force to develop a joint CPF "forest reporting information service" that aims at better information use and management, thus helping reduce the reporting burden on countries;
- (ii) increased use and update and of the CPF Sourcebook, including an online advice service for fund seekers;
- (iii) continued harmonization of definitions, following the two expert meetings organized jointly by CPF organizations.

Mr. El-Lakany conveyed CPF members' commitment to continue to enhance collaboration and coordination on forest issues, especially aiming to mobilize action on the ground. He also reiterated CPF's full support to UNFF-4 session and beyond and informed the Bureau members that CPF would meet in conjunction with UNFF-4.

In support to the preparations for the third ad hoc expert group, some CPF members had submitted information on existing instruments and processes relevant to forests and progress in implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action. CPF members have expressed their readiness to contribute to the deliberations on future arrangements by providing scientific and technical advice.

The Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the excellent works of CPF and its support to UNFF.

6. Other business

6.1 Nomination of the bureau for the fifth session

The Chairman Mr. Isakov has sent letters to the regional group chairs requesting for the nomination of regional representatives for the bureau of the fifth session. So far, no regional group nomination has been received. The bureau members agreed to urge their respective

regional groups for expedited consultations and nomination of respective representatives. The Bureau also advised the Secretariat to encourage the member States to act on this matter.

6.2 Next bureau meeting

The bureau will meet on Monday morning, 3 May 2004 in Geneva before the opening session. The bureau will then schedule its meetings during the 2 week period.

Closing of the meeting

After completing the discussion of items on its agenda Mr. Isakov closed the meeting.