



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

23 January 2008

**Australian-Swiss Region-Led Initiative**  
**on regional input in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests**  
(28-30 January 2008, Geneva, Switzerland)

**Time of meeting:** 28-30 January 2008

**Venue:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Duration:** 3 days

**Location:** United Nations Office, Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix 8 – 14, 1211 Geneva 10, (Room VIII and Room A-206)

**Languages/translation:** French, English, Spanish

The two working groups will be held concurrently, one with simultaneous translations in three languages (English, French and Spanish) and the other only in English. Plenary sessions will be held with simultaneous translations in the three languages.

**Working hours:** Sessions will be held from 10am until 1pm, and 3pm until 6pm with a two hour lunch break between.

**Outcome: Options on:**

- How to organise regional/sub-regional inputs on issues and agenda items planned for each UNFF session, including for its dialogue on regional priorities;
- Applicable approaches to contribute to the discussions of UNFF sessions according to regional mandates;
- How UNFF can contribute to regional processes.



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## **AGENDA**

### **Monday 28 January 2008**

#### **Plenary (Room VIII) (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)**

Co-chairs. Ms. S. Vermont (Switzerland) and Mr. M. Oyebo (Nigeria)

#### **Part I: 10 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.**

##### 1. Opening statements

- Mr. Tony Bartlett (Australia) and Ms Sibylle Vermont (Switzerland)
- Mr. Jan Heino (FAO)
- Mr. Christopher Prins (UNECE)
- Mr Jo Mulongoy (Convention on Biological Diversity)
- Mr. Abdellah Benmellouk (UNFF8 Bureau member)

##### 2. Presentations on

- Strengthening of the regional interaction in UNFF by Ms. Catalina Santamaria (UNFF Secretariat)
- Perspectives from countries on the regional interaction in UNFF: Mr. Tasso Azevedo (Brazil), Mr Yuyu Rahayu (Indonesia) and Mr. Sebastien Malele Mbala (Democratic Republic of Congo)

11 a.m. till 11.20 a.m.: *Coffee break*

#### **Part II: 11.20 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

##### 3. Further presentations on

- Perspectives from selected regional organizations:
  - Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission: Mr Patrick Durst (tbc)
  - African Forest Research Network: Mr Iba Kone
  - Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization: Mr. Francisco Ruiz (tbc)
  - Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Europe: Mr Arne Ivar Sletnes
  - Near East Forestry Commission: Mr Alexandros Christodoulou (tbc)
- Background paper by Mr. Don Wijewardana
- The objectives and working modalities of the two working groups (co-chairs)

## **Monday 28 January 2008**

**Working Group sessions (Room VIII and Room A-206) (3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)**

**Room VIII:** WG 1: Interpretation in English-French-Spanish.

Co-chair: Mr. C. Aragon (ACTO), Rapporteur: Mr. A. Benmellouk (Morocco)

**Room A-206:** WG 2: English.

Co-chair: Mr. T. Bartlett (Australia), Rapporteur: Ms. J. Levi (USA)

**Part III:** 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Key points for discussion

- Ways to enhance the integration of UNFF topics/matters into regional meetings
- Key priorities/challenges of regional bodies and how these link to the topics of the UNFF sessions (including any other topic that would need to be added)
- Capacity to influence future UNFF deliberations (emerging issues, two-way process). What kind of outcome/decision/document from UNFF could contribute to improving SFM at the regional level?
- Modalities for providing regional input to UNFF (What type of support is required to hold regional meetings to deal with UNFF agenda items; and to use reporting mechanisms to collect and organize input to UNFF?).

**Recreation Part ! :** 6.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

Buffet-Dinner hosted by the Government of Switzerland in the « Restaurant des délégués » in the UN building

## **Tuesday 29 January 2008**

**Plenary (Room VIII) (10 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.)**

Co-chairs. Ms. S. Vermont (Switzerland) and Mr. M. Oyebo (Nigeria)

**Part I:** 10 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.

Preliminary reports of both working groups

10.30 a.m. till 10.40 a.m.: *small break*

**Working Group sessions (Room VIII and Room A-206) (10.40 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.)**

**Room VIII:** WG 1: Interpretation in English-French-Spanish.

Co-chair: Mr. C. Aragon (ACTO), Rapporteur: Mr. A. Benmellouk (Morocco)

**Room A-206:** WG 2: English. Co-chair: Mr. T. Bartlett (Australia), Rapporteur: Ms. J. Levi (USA)

**Part II:** 10.40 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Continuation of the two working groups' work

**Wednesday 30 January 2008**

**Plenary (Room VIII)** (10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

Co-chairs. Ms. S. Vermont (Switzerland) and Mr. M. Oyebo (Nigeria)

Conclusions

- Presentation of working group reports, discussions on issues raised and presentation and finalization of the co-chair's report.
- Closing remarks