

Summary of the United Nations Forum on Forests Multi-Stakeholder Consultation

20 July 2004, Conference Call

In Attendance:

Ghazal Badiozamani, UN Forum on Forests Secretariat
Mary Coloumbe, International Council of Forest and Paper Associations
Richard Fuckner, International Forestry Students Association
Jeannette Gurung, Women Organizing for Change in Natural Resources Management
Natalie Hufnagl, Confederation of European Forest Owners
Aniina Kostelienan, International Forestry Students Association
Annable Pinker, International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropics
Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri, International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropics
Peter Wood, International Forestry Students Association

CPF recommendations

During the 16 June conference call, Ms. Badiozamani, on behalf of Mr. Street, had requested that focal points look through their discussion papers and statements for policy recommendations aimed at Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) member organizations for submission to Mr. Hozni El-Lakany, President of the CPF. This request was repeated and focal points who had not submitted such recommendations were asked to send them to either Mr. Street or Ms. Badiozamani at their earliest convenience.

Briefing on Indigenous People's Organization-Led Initiative

Progress continues to be made on the Organization-Led Initiative on implementation of international agreements on Traditional Forest Related Knowledge. More than half of the funds requested have been secured at this point and the meeting is scheduled to go forward on 6-10 December in Costa Rica.

Planning for the Ad-Hoc Expert Group in September

Participation of major group representatives at the forthcoming Ad Hoc Expert Group on "Consideration with a view to Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on all Types of Forests" to be held 6-10 September in New York was discussed at length. Ms. Badiozamani stated that major groups were not limited in the number of representatives they could send to the meeting. All representatives of accredited organizations could participate at the meeting as observers and may have the opportunity to intervene in the discussions at the discretion of the Chair. Ms. Badiozamani further stated that the Secretariat expected that this meeting would differ from previous Ad Hoc Expert Group Meetings because of the shortened time frame (four days rather than five) and the relatively high level of participation by member states. She proposed holding a panel discussion whereby major group representatives would have the opportunity to express their views as part of the plenary session. This panel discussion would be for one hour on the second day of the meeting from 12:00 – 1:00 pm. The discussion could continue into the lunch hour as a more informal exchange.

A number of concerns were raised. Some asked about other events occurring concurrently. Ms. Badiozamani stated that the panel discussion would be held during the plenary and there will be no side-events during the meeting so there would be no competing events. Although some expressed preference for maintaining flexibility in the timing and substance of interventions made during the

Expert Group meeting, all agreed that holding a panel discussion would be a good way to ensure an opportunity for stakeholders to make substantive contributions to the discussions of the meeting.

A number of themes were discussed for the panel and it was agreed that stakeholders should consider the Tasks set out for the Expert Group Meeting and prepare statements relevant to these Tasks. Suggested themes include:

1. Experience of major groups in interacting with the UNFF and the UN system as a whole with a view to suggesting how the input of stakeholders could be better utilized in inter-governmental discussions.
2. Elements of the current international arrangement on forests as well as those of other international instruments and bodies that are most effective in ensuring implementation.
3. Key elements of any future arrangement on forests.

It was agreed that the title of the panel would be “*Raising the Profile of Forests and Forestry*”.

It was further agreed that focal points would indicate who their representative speaker on the panel would be by **August 6**, with a possible extension to August 13.

Nominated panelists will be invited to participate in the next conference call at which time details of the format of the panel will be agreed. It was also agreed that once the speakers had been identified, a method of internal sharing of intended presentations would be determined.

Thinking about UNFF5

Ms. Badiozamani stated that the requests for substantive input to the review would be distributed to groups within the next two weeks with a deadline for submission of September 30. She also stated that there had been some progress in the planning for the Ministerial High Level Segment to be held in the beginning of the second week of the fifth session. Topics for the roundtable discussions are tentatively Land Use, Conflicts and Forests and Innovative Financial Mechanisms. This could change as the Bureau solidifies its plans for the sessions. Ministers will also discuss Forests and the Millennium Development Goals and the future of the international arrangements on forests during regular plenary sessions. She re-iterated the idea of inviting high-level stakeholder representatives to participate in the Ministerial Roundtables and invited focal points to begin thinking of who these representatives might be so as to ensure their availability at an early stage.

Focal points also agreed to hold a consultation meeting on substantive contribution and participation in UNFF5 during the Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting in September. This meeting was tentatively set for Friday 10 September during the lunch hour.

Ms. Badiozamani also asked focal points to continue to identify key national and international organizations that would be important to engage in the UNFF process.

Assignment of Follow Up

All Focal Points are requested to:

1. submit recommendations made during UNFF to CPF and its member organizations to Mr. Street as soon as possible

2. Inform Ms. Badiozamani of the stakeholder representative that will speak at the Ad Hoc Expert Group Stakeholder Panel Discussion (this could also be the focal point herself) by **6 August 2004**.
3. submit nomination letters for participation in the Ad Hoc Expert Group from ECOSOC accredited organizations no later than **20 August 2004**
4. compile a list of heads of key organizations to be engaged before UNFF5 and for possible participation in the Ministerial Roundtables

It was agreed that the next conference call would be held on **10 August 2004**.