

United Nations Forum on Forests Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Summary
24 September 2003 Quebec City, Quebec Canada

(Participants Contact List Available in Annex 1)

Opening of the Meeting

Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Coordinator and Head of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), opened the third Consultation meeting of the UNFF Major group focal points. Mr. Patosaari congratulated the focal points on the successes of UNFF3, including the clear acknowledgement by major groups and governments alike of the importance of increased participation of civil society. Mr. Patosaari drew attention to the various inter-sessional activities underway in support of UNFF4, including the UNFF Ad Hoc Expert Groups on Monitoring, Assessment & Reporting (MAR) and Finance & Technology Transfer. CPF member joint initiatives on forest reporting and the Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management were also highlighted. Mr. Patosaari expressed enthusiasm at the prospect of working with stakeholders in the coming months leading to UNFF4 as well as within the review process in progress to evaluate the effectiveness of UNFF under various criteria, including the value and quality of major group participation.

Changes in the Focal-point System

- Several changes with the UNFF major group focal point system have occurred. IUFRO noted that it was stepping down as UNFF MSD focal point for the Scientific and Technical community, as it has recently joined the Collaborative Partnership on Forests member. Plans have already been made within its network to nominate **the International Council for Science (ICSU)**, to undertake focal point responsibilities for UNFF4.
- A new youth focal point, the **International Forestry Students Association (IFSA)** headquartered at the University of Freiburg in Germany, has been appointed lead focal point for Youth and Children for UNFF. IFSA has 30 years of experience of bringing students to international fora related to forests, and its members can be found on all continents of the world.

UNFF3 MSD Outcomes

Participants shared their views the positive and negative outcomes of UNFF4. Positive outcomes included:

- Major groups, through the synthesis papers and presentations, did succeed in delivering a concise, unified on a way forward
- Trust was created between stakeholder individuals that will in some ways make working together towards the common goal of positively contributing to UNFF4 easier
- Major groups earned the respect and trust of the Forum, which has / will lead directly to invitations to attend other UNFF meetings, such as the ad hoc expert group meetings and country led initiatives

Negative outcomes of UNFF3 included:

- Lack of interactive dialogue between civil society government representatives
- Certain key national delegations were not present, including developing countries
- Major group messages were presented too much in the voice of the UN – little value added to discussion language that would already take place
- Major groups as a group did not specify clear objectives or outcomes of MSD, thus were unable to monitor whether UNFF3 met expectations
- Had too little time to prepare discussion / synthesis papers and presentations

Participants expressed the concern that problems faced by MSD are indicative of a wider problem – that the UNFF as a whole is not living up to its mandate of focusing upon implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action. To address this question, attendees raised the idea of focusing MSD on the following questions related to implementation: What are you doing at home? How can we improve our performance? How can we start using the resources available? What analyses have governments done on how they implement the proposals? A letter to governments with these suggestions as well as development of cooperative presentations with governments on implementation in their countries as well as on how major group organizations are implementing proposals for action related to UNFF4 elements was recommended. Finally, most of the negative outcomes of UNFF3 could be addressed if enough advance time were allowed to prepare the MSD in conjunction with governments, other major groups, CPF members and the UNFF Secretariat.

Inter-sessional Involvement of Major Groups

Perhaps one of the most important messages communicated by major groups at UNFF3 is that quality stakeholder dialogue is an ongoing process that takes place not just at UNFF sessions, but inter-sessionally as well. In this light, major groups discussed the status of inter-sessional activities being undertaken by various groups.

- The importance of a **major group organization led initiative in support of UNFF** was underlined. NGOs highlighted that the Criteria and Indicators country led initiatives have been some of the most successful initiatives. However, another country and organization led initiative on indigenous peoples issues and forests, Leticia 1 has had little follow up. NGOs and IPOs are attempting to address this by organizing another organization led initiative in the run up to UNFF4, a follow up to the IPF organization led initiative in Leticia, Colombia. Follow up on host government agreements and the proposal for this initiative will be circulated soon.
- The issue of a **travel fund** for UNFF related meetings was again emphasized as a priority. The point was made that two major groups – women and indigenous peoples organizations – were conspicuously absent in a time when their participation is arguably most important, during the preparations for UNFF4 that will treat the elements of Social/Cultural Aspects of Forests and Traditional Forest Related Knowledge. It was agreed that though funds are sorely needed for needy major group participation at UNFF events such as UNFF sessions, country/organization led initiatives, major group Consultation and ad hoc expert groups meetings, the administration of such a fund, it was agreed, should be in the hands of major groups themselves, not the UNFF Secretariat. NGOs agreed to take the lead on developing a proposal to begin circulating to potential donors and other partners. The UNFF Secretariat offered its support, especially in creating linkages with sympathetic governments that have been in contact with the Secretariat on participation issues.

Preparation for UNFF4

UNFF4 will focus on five elements:

1. Social and cultural aspects of forests
2. Traditional forest-related knowledge
3. Scientific forest-related knowledge
4. Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management
5. Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions

Major groups may want to organize the multi-stakeholder dialogue segment, individual and possible synthesis statements of the UNFF4 session to communicate progress in implementation of:

- 1) the proposals for action related to the above elements,
- 2) emerging issues that are not treated in the IPF/IFF proposals, as well as
- 3) individual sector's gap analysis views of what they would like to see governments focus upon

Preparation for UNFF4 should include consultation within major groups networks, with key governments, CPF members and the UNFF Secretariat.

- Major group input submitted by **8 November 2003** on the above UNFF4 elements will be forwarded onto the appropriate CPF member focal agency developing the Secretary General's report on that element. This Secretary-General's Report will be the basis for discussions at UNFF4.
- In addition, major group networks are invited to produce discussions papers for their individual groups that will be translated into all six languages of the UN and will form part of the formal UNFF4 documents packet. A final deadline for these documents is **4 February 2004**.

Opportunities for Major Group Lobbying

Governments

While stakeholders showed excellent cooperative efforts at UNFF3, it was clear that more advance work in collaboration with government representatives, including UNFF Bureau members and UNFF National Focal Points is needed. A group

of focal points will follow up on how to ameliorate lobbying relations between civil society and governments. Some ideas suggested to begin exploring: a short questionnaire to governments on expectations for MSD complemented by individual talks with key governments, a note of topics of concern to be sent to the Spring Bureau meetings that should include both orchestration / logistic and substantive issues and development of collaborative presentations with governments on how UNFF4 elements are being implemented.

Collaborative Partnership on Forests Network (CPF Network)

The CPF Network is a network of governments, CPF members, civil society representatives, who, in their individual capacities, would like to work in a more informal way with the CPF members in support of their work for UNFF. The main goal of the CPF Network is information sharing. Consultation participants that have attended various meetings of the CPF Network expressed their concern that given how the CPF Network currently operates, while its goal is valid, is in fact not as useful a mechanisms for influencing UNFF and CPF members. Therefore, much energy would have to be invested to make the CPF Network into a group that the focal points would feel comfortable devoting much time to.

Thus, it was decided that:

- MSD Focal Point contact information would be sent to all CPF Network and CPF Members with the invitation to use the Focal Points as a focus group for issues for which they would like broad civil society opinion.
- Each individual MSD focal point will decide how to interact with the Network and the CPF Network would be monitored by the focal points for signs of projects that would be worth their consideration.
- MSD Focal points will communicating with CPF Members through the UNFF Secretariat, as well as, in certain cases, informally contacting individual CPF Members on specific issues of concern. For example, certain CPF member focal agencies, such as CIFOR and ICRAF, have made it clear that they are hoping to develop, in close collaboration with civil society, the SG Reports in which they are involved.

Assignment of Follow Up

- It was agreed that the next Stakeholder Consultation should take place 13th or 15th December in Geneva, around the weekend between the UNFF Ad Hoc Expert Group meetings planned. UNFF-Secretariat will verify best time and communicate to all focal points the final date.
- In order to most effectively take follow up action on key issues by major groups, the following small action groups were formed. These groups will provide a proposed timeline and goals for their particular issues to all other focal points for comment and information by 17 October. Items noted during the Consultation that these groups should take note of are in bullet point.

Major Group-Governments Linkages Group (Youth, Landowners, Labor, Industry)

- Letter to governments (e.g. UNFF Bureau, UNFF Focal Points) – reminding them of mandate of implementation, including suggestions of organization (See Section 2 of Summary). Consult with UNFF-S.
- Letter to UNFF bureau in time for spring UNFF4 meeting to begin building dialogue with Bureau before actual session on both orchestration / logistic and substantive issues. Consult with UNFF-S.
- Linkages to key government delegation to begin developing joint major group-government presentations on implementation for UNFF4 MSD
- Short questionnaire to governments on expectations for MSD complemented by individual talks with key governments

Major Group Funds Group (NGOs)

- Develop proposal for UNFF major group trust fund
- Begin battery of meetings with potential donors. Consult with UNFF-S.

Organization Led Initiative Group (NGOs, IPOs)

- Circulate proposal for initiative
- Meet with potential host countries. Consult with UNFF-S.
- Formulate steering committee for initiatives

Key Follow up Dates:

2003

8 Oct: Deadline for nominations of major group representatives to UNFF ad hoc expert groups meetings

17 Oct: Table of timeline, goals and outputs of issue follow up groups

8 November: Major Group input for Possible Inclusion to Secretary-General's Reports Due

13 or 15 December: UNFF Major Group Consultation (Lunch/Teleconference)

2004

9 Jan: First Draft of Major Group Papers Due

16 Jan: Comments from UNFF Sec to Major Groups

4 February: Final draft of Major Group Papers Due

2 May 2004: UNFF Major Group Consultation, Geneva

3-14 May 2004: UNFF4

Annex 1: Participants List

Ms. Susan Braatz, UNFF Secretariat, braatz@un.org

Mr. Alexander Buch, International Union of Forest and Research Organizations-IUFRO (Science), buck@iufro.org

Ms. Mary Colombe, International Council of Forest and Paper Associations-ICFPA (Business and Industry)

Ms. Yvonne Eder, IFSA (Youth/Children), y.eder@web.de

Mr. Bernard de Galembert, ICFPA – CEPI (Business and Industry), b.degalembert@cepi.org

Ms. Natalie Hufnagle, (CEPF, Small Forest Landowners), hufnagl@cepf-eu.org

Mr. Jason Jabbour, IFSA (Youth/Children), jason.jabbour@utoronto.ca

Mr. Andrey Laletin, Friends of Siberian Forests/Global Forest Coalition – CIS (NGO), laletin@online.ru

Ms. Emma Lehr, IFSA (Youth/Children)

Mr. Miguel Lovera Global Forest Coalition (NGO), lovera2@conexion.com.py

Ms. Mary Macgregor, IFSA (Youth/Children)

Mr. Joel N, IFCPA, Canadian Forest Products (Business and Industry) ,

Mr. John Parotta, USDA Forest Service / IUFRO (Science), jparrotta@fs.fed.us

Mr. Pekka Patosaari, UNFF Secretariat, patosaari@un.org

Ms. Mia Soderlund, UNFF Secretariat, soderlund@un.org

Ms. Abigail Sarmac, UNFF Secretariat, sarmac@un.org

Mr. Bill Street, International Federation of Building and Wood Workers-IFBWW (Unions), William.Street@ifbww.org

Mr. Peter Wood, IFSA/University of Toronto (Youth/Children)