

# UNFF News

## Highlights

- Advance unedited report on UNFF 2 is available online
- UNFF 3 Bureau will meet on 9 May to nominate its Chairperson and discuss preparations for UNFF 3
- CPF Network met for the second time on 10 April
- Forests, an important issue in other international fora, including WSSD and CBD COP 6

*Informal Newsletter from the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests*

## Advance unedited report from UNFF 2 available online

The advance unedited text of the substantive part of the report on the second session of the UN Forum on Forests is available online: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>

The report includes decisions that either called for action or were brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), such as the date and venue of the third session of UNFF (Geneva, 26 May to 6 June) and its provisional agenda. UNFF 3 will focus on the following elements (i) economic aspects of forests; (ii) forest health and productivity; and, (iii) maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs. Furthermore, the report includes the Ministerial Declaration and Message from UNFF to the

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), a resolution on the specific criteria for review at UNFF 5, as well as a resolution on UNFF 2 elements: (i) combating deforestation and forest degradation; (ii) forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems; (iii) rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover; (iv) rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests; and, (v) concepts, terminology and definitions.

The final report of UNFF 2 will be submitted to the substantive session of ECOSOC to be held in New York in July, 2002.

## UNFF 3 Bureau meeting

The first UNFF 3 Bureau meeting is scheduled for 9 May 2002. At the meeting, the Bureau will nominate the Chairperson for UNFF 3 and deal with issues concerning the review of and follow-up on UNFF 2 decisions and preparations for UNFF 3.

On 15 March, immediately after the closure of UNFF 2, a brief meeting of UNFF 3 was convened, which elected the members of the Bureau. The following members were elected:

- Mr. Gustavo Eduardo Ainchil, Argentina
- Mr. Peter Csoka, Hungary
- Ms. Conceição Ferreira, Portugal
- Mr. Hossein Moeini Meybodi, Iran
- H.E. Mr. Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka, Uganda

The chairperson of UNFF 3 will formally be elected on the opening day of UNFF 3, 26

May in Geneva. However, the general practice is that the Bureau nominate a chairperson at its first meeting, in order to facilitate the preparation for the next UNFF session. Furthermore, the common practice is to rotate the chairpersonship among the five geographic regions. The chairpersons for UNFF 1 and UNFF 2 were from Africa and Western European and Others Group, respectively.

Regarding the preparations for UNFF 3, the Bureau will discuss the topics of official documentation to facilitate deliberations at UNFF 3. Also, to take advantage of the time leading to UNFF 3, the Bureau will review the options to build consensus among Member States on the terms of reference of the ad hoc expert groups, which was left bracketed at UNFF 2.

## CPF Network meeting on 10 April

The second meeting of the CPF Network was held on 10 April in the Hague, in conjunction with the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The objectives of the meeting were to: (i) inform interested parties about the existence of the CPF Network and extend invitations to them to join; and, (ii) discuss the Network's objectives, functions and, in particular, its working modalities.

CPF Network's contribution to support the work of UNFF was highlighted and some of the points mentioned in this regard were:

- Support implementation of UNFF work at the national level, through national forest programmes and other national policy frameworks;
- Enhance the contribution of the CPF to the work of UNFF;

- Facilitate the wider involvement of stakeholders in UNFF's intersessional work;
- Facilitate a two-way flow of information, related to CPF's work, between international and national levels.

Communications and information sharing within the CPF Network are mainly by e-mail, the CPF website and the UNFF Newsletter.

Participants at the CPF Network meeting also suggested the initiation of collaboration among CPF Network participants in specific areas.

A draft CPF Network Concept Paper has been prepared, which outlines the objectives, functions and working modalities of the CPF Network. The UNFF Secretariat welcomes comment to this draft. The Concept Paper is available online at UNFF website: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>

The summary report of the CPF Network meeting will also shortly be available online.

## Forests an issue for WSSD and CBD

Forests have been highlighted in several international meetings lately, notably UNFF, WSSD PrepCom and COP 6 of CBD.

The Ministerial Declaration and Message of UNFF was well received by the PrepCom III of WSSD (March, 2002).

The basis for the negotiations at the PrepCom was the Chairman's text, which included one paragraph on the issue of forests. At the PrepCom, several countries supported replacing that paragraph with text from UNFF's Ministerial Declaration and Message. However, other countries preferred amendments to the existing paragraph and new additional text. The issue of forests was not resolved and discussions will continue at the next PrepCom, which is scheduled for 27 May to 7 June in Bali. Na-

tional forest experts are encouraged to follow up with their country's delegations to WSSD PrepCom IV to ensure that the text on forests is consistent with that of UNFF's Ministerial Declaration and Message.

At the COP 6 of CBD the expanded work programme on forest diversity was adopted. A decision was also taken to request the Executive Secretary of CBD to, among other things, initiate work on: (i) carrying out a study clarifying the relationship between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management; (ii) undertaking an assessment of the relationship between CBD's expanded work programme on forest biodiversity and IPF/IFP proposals for action, UNFF's multi-year programme of work, CPF and others; (iii) developing case studies on forest law enforcement.

## *Informal Newsletter from the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests*

UNFF Secretariat  
Two UN Plaza, DC 2-2284  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Phone: + 1 212 963-3401/9875  
Fax: +1 917 367-3186  
Email: [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org)  
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>

*The UNFF newsletter aims to provide updated information on matters related to the international arrangement on forests.*

*This informal newsletter is produced and distributed electronically by the UNFF Secretariat. To subscribe to this free newsletter, please contact the Secretariat at [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org). Please address your comments and suggestions to Ms. Mia Söderlund at [soderlund@un.org](mailto:soderlund@un.org)*

## Upcoming Meetings

### UNFF

26 May – 6 June 2003, Geneva.  
3rd session of the UNFF.

### Other

13 – 18 May 2002, Bali.  
32nd session of the International Tropical Timber Council

27 May – 7 June 2002, Bali.  
4th Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

13 – 14 June 2002, Bonn.  
UNFCCC session of SBI & SBSTA

26 – 28 June 2002, Navarra  
4th International Consultation on Mountain Forests: lessons learned, societal challenges, and a vision beyond 2002  
Government of Navarra, Spain and the European Observatory of Mountain Forests in close collaboration with FAO

For more information regarding upcoming forest-related meetings visit UNFF's website and view Calendar of Events: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>