

FOURTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS GENEVA, 3 - 14 MAY 2004

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UNFF5 BUREAU MEMBERS ELECTED

The following bureau members were elected by acclamation during the first meeting of UNFF5 held on 14 May 2004:

Africa:

Mr. Francis K. Butagira, Uganda

Asia:

The Asian Group bureau member will be elected at a later date.

Eastern European Countries:

Mr. Adam Craciunescu, Romania

Latin America & the Caribbean:

Mr. Manuel Rodriguez Becerra, Colombia

Western Europe & Others:

Mr. Denys Gauer, France

Forests remain a critical issue in the global environmental and development agenda. Not only are forests vital for maintaining ecological balance and biological diversity they are equally important for the livelihoods of people, especially the world's poor. Forests are a source of food, energy, shelter, medicine, commerce, and spiritual wellbeing. Demands on forests often transcend political boundaries creating a need for regional and global dialogue for cooperation and collective action. For the past four years, UNFF has provided the international community with a Forum where these issues have been deliberated.

The Fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF 4), which was held from 3 to 4 May 2004, saw increased representation and participation from developing countries and major groups such as indigenous people, youth, and women.

The two-week session considered social and cultural aspects of forests; traditional and scientific forest-related knowledge; and monitoring, assessment and reporting and criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management. Governments addressed enhanced cooperation, including among members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). In addition, the session marked the beginning of the review process of the



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international arrangement on forests to be considered at the fifth session. The Multi-stakeholder Dialogue between government representatives and major groups witnessed an increase in enthusiasm and participation. Close to 150 major groups attended the Dialogue. Participants focused on property rights, clear tenure systems, and fair and balanced sharing of benefits.

As part of the fourth session, three panel discussions on the role of sustainable forest management in rural development and poverty eradication in Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the role of forests in achieving the Millennium Development Goals were held. The recommendations emanating from the SIDS panel will contribute to the preparations of the Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing

For complete coverage of UNFF4 by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, please visit:

<http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/unff/unff4>

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 (AHEG PARAM)

The ad hoc expert group will meet from **7 to 10 September 2004**, in New York. The ad hoc expert group shall provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum for its work on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests.

The UNFF Secretariat is in the process of preparing documentation to assist experts in carrying out their tasks. So far only 32 expert nominations have been submitted. Member States are urged to submit their nominations as soon as possible.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc-legal.html>.

CALL FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINT NOMINATIONS

Resolution 4/3 (paragraph 12) on *Forest-Related Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting: Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management*, adopted by member States during UNFF 4, urges member States that have not already nominated a national focal point to do so. Member States are invited to submit the national focal point name(s) and contact information to:

Ms Njeri Kariuki, UNFF Secretariat

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Room DC2-2284, United Nations, New York, 10017, USA.
Telephone: 1(917) 367-6048, Fax: 1(917) 367-3186,
Email: kariuki@un.org, by **1 July 2004**.

The current list of National Focal Points is now available online: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/contacts-focal.html>.

CPF LAUNCHES A FOREST REPORTING INFORMATION FRAMEWORK

During UNFF 4, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met and endorsed a CPF common forest reporting information framework. Countries will use it to compile and manage information for reporting purposes. The framework will build on the existing reporting portal. When fully operational, the framework will organize forest-related reporting according to seven thematic elements. It will facilitate an interface and information sharing among a wide range of partners in support of UNFF and implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

For more information on the framework, visit:

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/cpf/index.jsp>.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

The UNFF Secretariat expresses special thanks and bids farewell to Susan Braatz and Kyaw Kyaw Shane who are both leaving the UNFF Secretariat. Ms Braatz concludes a three year tour of duty as the UNFF Secretariat's Senior Forest Policy Officer in charge of the forest policy coordination group, as an FAO secondment. We wish her much success and warmly welcome the new Senior Forest Policy Officer, Peter Csoka into the Secretariat team.

Mr. Shane has retired from the Organization after over 20 years of service to the United Nations. For the past four years, he has worked in the Secretariat as a Senior Forest Policy Officer. He will be greatly missed by the entire Secretariat. We wish Kyaw Kyaw all the best as he ventures into this new phase of life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

27 June-2 July

1st World Congress of Agroforestry: Working Together for Sustainable Land-use System (Orlando, Florida, USA)

6-30 July

Substantive Session of Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (United Nations, New York)

20-23 July

36th session of the International Tropical Timber Council (Interlaken, Switzerland)

26-30 July

The United Nations Conference (first part) for the negotiation of a Successor Agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994 (Geneva, Switzerland)

1-10 August

The Second Worldwide Symposium on Gender and Forestry, in support of UNFF (Arusha, Tanzania)