

AD HOC EXPERT GROUP CONSIDERS FUTURE OPTIONS FOR MANAGING THE WORLD'S FORESTS

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Earth Negotiations Bulletin's coverage of the Ad Hoc Group Meeting on the Consideration with a View of Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on all Types of Forests <http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/unff/param/>

Over 70 international experts met at United Nations Headquarters in New York to consider options for the future management of the world's forests. Experts at the *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) assessed existing regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes relevant to forests. They discussed complementarities, gaps and duplications and reviewed experiences arising from existing forest-related regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes.

Experts at the meeting sought to identify strengths and weaknesses of the international arrangement on forests (IAF), and to present UNFF with options to improve the overall objective of the IAF of promoting the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment by all actors.

In his opening statement, Pekka Patosaari, Coordinator and Head of the UNFF Secretariat called on the experts, while identifying the range of options, to elaborate further on their general traits and the legal, financial and institutional modalities that would be necessary for the effective imple-



AHEG Meeting Plenary Session - ENB Photograph

mentation of the options recommended.

Expert supported the need to strengthen the current IAF and presented general features of various options and measures to revitalize the current IAF. They stressed the importance of securing adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity building, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

The meeting adopted a report outlining the major outcomes including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by UNFF. The report will be submitted to the fifth session of UNFF to be held in May 2005.

For more information in the expert group meeting please go to: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc-param.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 10 – 13, Warsaw, Poland

Conference on: **Evaluating Forestry Incentive and Assistance Programmes in Europe – Challenges to Improve Policy Effectiveness**

For more information, contact The Forest Institute in Warsaw (FRIW), European Forest Institute (EFI) at:

http://www.efi.fi/events/2004/effe_conference

October 14 – 15, Warsaw, Poland

First ELM Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPEE)

For more information, contact the MCPEE Warsaw Liaison Unit at:

<http://www.mcpfe.org>

October 18 -22, Costa Rica

FAO Regional Forestry Commission Meeting

For more information, contact the FAO Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission at:

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/forestry2/index.jsp?siteId=1400&siteTreeId=2962&langId=1&geoid=0>

October 18 -22, Uppsala, Sweden

Country-led Initiative in support of UNFF: “Learning for the Future, with Particular Reference to Sub-Saharan Africa”

For more information, contact the conference steering committee at:

<http://www.ksla.se/>

October 25 -28, Mexico

FAO Regional Forestry Commission Meeting

For more information, contact the FAO North American Forestry Commission at:

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/forestry2/index.jsp?siteId=1400&siteTreeId=2962&langId=1&geoid=0>

MAJOR GROUPS HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION UNDER A NEW INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON FORESTS (IAF)

During the AHEG-PARAM, a stakeholder panel discussion was held on 8 September. Major group representatives discussed raising the profile of forests on the international agenda.

The panel discussion provided fresh inputs to the dialogue, including the need to involve major groups in the process of developing a new international arrangement on forests. Panellists noted the danger of marginalizing major groups, and urged the AHEG-PARAM to identify more effective means for major group participation. They informed the meeting that the international arrangement on forests had to support human rights and the rights of local and indigenous communities.

Panellists representing the following major groups participated in the panel discussion: Farmers and Small Forest Owners, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Communities, Workers and Trade Unions, Indigenous Peoples, Non-governmental Organizations, Children and Youth and Women.

COUNTRY LED INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT OF UNFF5

The AHEG-PARAM generated momentum in the discussion on a new international arrangement on forests (IAF). Experts at the meeting stressed the need to strengthen the current IAF. They expressed the need to build on the outcomes of the AHEG-PARAM and continue discussion in the lead up to UNFF 5. The meeting supported a proposal to organize a country-led initiative to facilitate further discussions on all the options presented in the Report of the ad hoc expert group meeting. The Government of Mexico offered to host such a meeting in January 2005.

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