Concept Note
Ministerial Roundtable on
The Rio+20 Outcome and Post-2015
UN Development Agenda
Ministerial Segment
10th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
9:00 am- 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, 9 April 2013

Introduction

A ministerial segment during UNFF10 will be held from 8 to 19 April 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey.

UNFF10’s Ministerial Segment is of particular significance: (i) It is the first multilateral session on forests in the context of the growing recognition of the role of forests in addressing Economic Development and Financing; ii) It will be the first high level segment of the Forum to be held after the Rio+20 Conference and prior to the special event during the General Assembly on the MDGs and post-2015 UN development agenda in September 2013; (iii) it will be held after the adoption of 21 March as the first-ever International Day on Forests by the General Assembly and (iv) it is a timely opportunity for the Forum to begin the process of preparations for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests (IAF) prior to the UNFF’s eleventh session in 2015.

To maximize the available time of the Ministers and other Heads of Delegation and receive their leadership and vision, the Ministerial Segment has been organized into a High Level Plenary session and two Ministerial roundtables, with topics focused on the session’s overall theme of Forests and Economic Development and the existing and developing international policy processes.

Context

The international community will make a decision on two major issues by 2014: the follow-up to Rio+20, including the development of Sustainable Development Goals, and the post-2015 UN Development Agenda and its implementation beyond 2015. The process for designing both processes have already begun and governments and other stakeholders are fully engaged, discussing the process and the substance of these critical issues. The United Nations family is involved at the very highest levels, with the active leadership and support of the Secretary-General in this work.

This roundtable provides an excellent opportunity for forest-focused Ministers and Heads of Delegation to discuss the interconnections between these important developments and to propose policy advice on integrating the issues related to forests in the Rio+20 follow-up, the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 UN development agenda. It is extremely important to address these issues in the lead-up to consideration of how forests
should be addressed multilaterally beyond 2015, as the UNFF will take up the question of the "future international arrangement on forests" at the eleventh session of the Forum in 2015.

Objectives

The objectives of the roundtable discussions are to:

- Explore actions targeted at advancing effective and substantive integration of forests into the Rio+20 follow-up, including the sustainable development goals,
- Identify the necessary components and actions to be included in the post-2015 UN Development Agenda and its implementation, and to
- Further address the intergovernmental actions that should be taken through UNFF, including consideration of these issues in the context of the lead up to the consideration of the multilateral forest agenda of the future.

Modality

The discussions during the roundtable will be co-chaired by two senior Co-Chairs (one from the North and one from the South). The Co-Chairs will invite Mr. Wu Hongbo, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations to kick off the interactive discussions with a keynote address. Ministers and other Heads of Delegation are strongly encouraged to engage in interactive discussions under the topic of the roundtable, as they can together influence decisions that will be taken by UNFF, and subsequently by the ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly. Prepared country statements, however, are limited to three minutes for individual Member States and five minutes for representatives of the regional political groups. Countries should indicate their preference to attend one of the roundtable thorough the arrangement announced in the UN Journal as of 28 February 2013.

Co-Chairs

(TBC)

Expected Output

A Co-Chairs’ summary of the main issues and ideas highlighted throughout the discussions in the roundtable will be included in the final report of the Session.