United Nations Forum on Forests
Fourth session
Geneva, 3 - 14 May - 2004
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

3. Status of the Secretariat

4. Implementation of the proposal for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on
Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations
Forum on Forests:
   (a) Progress in implementation:
      (i) Traditional forest-related knowledge
      (ii) Forest-related scientific knowledge
      (iii) Social and cultural aspects of forests
      (iv) Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions
      (v) Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management
   (b) Means of implementation (finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies
      and capacity-building for sustainable forest management) as a cross-cutting issue,
      considered in the context of sub-items 4 (a), (i) (v) above.

5. Common items for each session:
   (a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue
   (b) Enhanced cooperation
   (c) Country experiences and lessons learned
   (d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation
(e) Intersessional work  
(f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting  
(g) Promoting public participation  
(h) National forest programmes  
(i) Trade  
(j) Enabling environment

6. Other matters

7. Dates and venue of the fifth session of the Forum

8. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Forum

9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairperson and such other officers as may be required (see E/5975/Rev.1). According to Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000 establishing the Forum, the Bureau will consist of a Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom will also act as the Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

On 6 June 2003, at the first meeting of the fourth session, the Forum elected Mr. I Gede Ngurah Swajaya (Indonesia), Mr. Yuriy N. Isakov (Russian Federation), Mr. Xolisa Mabhongo (South Africa) and Ms. Stephanie J. Caswell (United States of America), as members of the Bureau for the fourth session of the Forum. It postponed the election of the Chairperson and one Vice-Chairperson from a Latin America and Caribbean State, as well as the Rapporteur to the later meeting.

The Forum may wish to elect the nominated Chairperson, Mr. Yuriy N. Isakov (Russian Federation), and the remaining Vice-Chairperson nominated from a Latin America and Caribbean State, Mr. George W. Talbot (Guyana), as well as the Rapporteur for the fourth session of the Forum.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.
In its decision 2003/298 of July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Forum on its third session and approved the provisional agenda for its fourth session. The Forum may wish to adopt the agenda and the organization of work for the session proposed by the Secretariat.

3. Status of the Secretariat

The Secretariat will present a report on the status of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests including its activities, staff and budget. The Forum may wish to consider the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of the Forum Secretariat (E/CN.18/2004/___)


In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (see resolution 1/1 in the report of the Forum on its first session [E/CN.18/2001/3/Rev.1, part two, chap. I, sect. B]), the fourth session will address progress in implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) proposals for action and the plan of action of the Forum related to the following elements: (i) traditional forest-related knowledge; (iii) Forest-related scientific knowledge; (iii) Social and cultural aspects of forests; (iv) Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions; and (v) Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management. The Forum will address the means of implementation, including finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management, in the context of these elements.

In the documentation listed below, the secretariat has, for each of the elements to be addressed at the fourth session of the Forum, considered the following common items (see section 5), as relevant: country experience and lessons learned; emerging issues relevant to country implementation; monitoring, assessment and reporting; promoting public participation; national forest programmes; trade; and enabling environment.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on Traditional forest-related knowledge (E/CN.18/2004/___)
Report of the Secretary-General on Forest-related scientific knowledge (E/CN.18/2004/___)
Report of the Secretary-General on Social and cultural aspects of forests (E/CN.18/2004/___)
Report of the Secretary-General on Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions (E/CN.18/2004/___)
5. Common items for each session

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Forum will address the following common items at each of its sessions: (a) multi-stakeholder dialogue; (b) enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, inter alia, with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; (c) country experiences and lessons learned; (d) emerging issues relevant to country implementation; (e) intersessional work; (f) monitoring, assessment and reporting; (g) promoting public participation; (h) national forest programmes; (i) trade; and (j) enabling environment.

The Forum may wish to consider the following common items that are not considered in the context of item 4 (see above) as self-standing agenda items: multi-stakeholder dialogue; enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, inter alia, with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; and intersessional work.

5(a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue

The United Nations Forum on Forests noted the value of multi-stakeholder dialogues in advancing the work of the Forum. It decided that multi-stakeholder dialogues, involving the nine “major groups” identified in Agenda 21, are to be held at each session, beginning at the second session. It has been suggested that the multi-stakeholder dialogue of a session be focused on seeking multi-stakeholder perspectives on the specific agenda items of that session. Accordingly, the multi-stakeholder dialogue at the fourth session of the Forum would be focused on: (i) traditional forest-related knowledge; (iii) Forest-related scientific knowledge; (iii) Social and cultural aspects of forests; (iv) Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions; and (v) Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2004/__ and its addenda, the discussion papers submitted by various major groups.

5(b) Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

The Forum decided at its first session to develop and maintain contacts, cooperate, and to make active efforts to develop synergies with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments.

Furthermore, as a result of the deliberations at the third session, under this common item, the Forum, through its resolution 3/4, invited the Member States and the members of the
Collaborative Partnership on Forests to provide their views, by the end of February 2004, on specific issues, in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and requested the secretariat to submit a compilation of those views at its fourth session. The outcomes of the discussion on the issues at the fourth session of the Forum will be provided to the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for information. Based on the views received from Member States, the secretariat has compiled views of Member States and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The Secretariat will present an oral report on this topic.

The Forum may wish to consider approaches for enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination as well as a message to the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2004/__)
Information document: Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2004 (E/CN.18/2003/INF__)

**5(e) Intersessional work**

In its multi-year programme of work, as outlined in resolution 1/1, the United Nations Forum on Forests recommended the convening of three ad hoc expert groups to support the work of the Forum on the following issues: (a) approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting; (b) finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; (c) consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests.

At its third session, the Forum concluded discussions on the titles, composition, terms of reference, scheduling and reporting of the three ad hoc expert groups. At the recommendation of the third Session of the Forum, the Economic and Social Council, through its decision 2003/299, established the three ad hoc expert groups.

In conformity with the decision 2003/299, the ad hoc expert group on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting met from 8 to 12 December 2003 in Geneva and the ad hoc expert group on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies met from 15 to 19 December also in Geneva. The two ad hoc expert groups are required to submit their reports to the fourth session of the Forum. The Forum may wish to consider the reports of the two ad hoc expert groups.

The decision 2003/299 also requested the Secretariat of the Forum to submit to the Forum’s fourth session an information note reporting on progress in the preparation for the ad hoc expert group meeting on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. The note is neither subject to discussion nor negotiation in the
Forum. The Forum may also wish to receive the note prepared by the secretariat, which is based on the views provided by the Member States and information provided by the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests as specified in the same decision.

In resolution 2/3 of the second session of the UNFF the Secretariat was asked, in collaboration with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to identify and propose to its fourth session a process to facilitate the carrying out of the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests at its fifth session. The Forum may wish to consider the note prepared by the secretariat with a proposed review process.

**Documentation**

Report of the ad hoc expert group on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting ((E/CN.18/2003/___))

Report of the ad hoc expert group on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; (E/CN.18/2003/___)

Note by the Secretariat on progress in the preparation for the ad hoc expert group meeting on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests (E/CN.18/2004/___)

Note by the Secretariat proposing a process to facilitate the carrying out of the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests (E/CN.18/2003/___)

**6. Other matters**

The Forum may wish to consider any matter raised under this item.

It is suggested that the UNFF brings up some programme questions related to General Assembly resolution 58/269 which requested the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a Strategic Framework for the biennium 2006-2007, comprising Part One: Plan outline and Part Two: Biennial Programme Plan to replace the current medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

The UNFF is invited to review the proposed biennial programme plan for sustainable forest management (Sub-programme 9). The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be first submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session when it considers the Secretary-General’s proposed Strategic Framework for the biennium 2006-2007.

The Forum may wish to consider the Note by the Secretary-General.

**Documentation**
7. Date and venue for the fifth session of the Forum

According to the decision 2001/218 of the Economic and Social Council, the fifth session of the Forum will be held in New York. The Forum needs to decide the date for the fifth session to be held in New York.

8. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Forum

The Forum will recommend to the Economic and Social Council for adoption a provisional agenda for the fifth session, which will be based upon the multi-year programme of work outlined in resolution 1/1.

9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure, the Forum shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a report on the work of the session.