

**United Nations Forum on Forests
Bureau of the Sixth Session (UNFF 6 Bureau)**

Minutes of the second meeting
Tuesday, 1 November 2005
10:00 AM – 01:15 PM *New York Time (EST)*

Participation

Bureau members: H.E. Prof. Judith Mbula Bahemuka; Mr. Majdi Ramadan and Mr. Franz Perrez (by telephone). Mr. Tono Kruzic sent regrets and Ms. Irena Zubcevic from the Croatian Mission participated on his behalf.

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Ms. Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist, Mr. Mahendra Joshi, Mr. Jorge Illueca and Mr. Peter Csoka.

Others: Mr. Fredrick Matwang'a, Kenyan Mission.

The agenda of the first meeting of the Bureau were the following:

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the first meeting, held on 5 October 2005
3. Informal consultations and briefings
4. Adjustment on the meeting schedule
5. Discussion on the plan for the preparation of the Sixth Session
6. Discussion on organization of work of the Sixth Session
7. Other matters

Opening of the meeting

Prof. Judith M. Bahemuka (Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, New York) chaired the meeting of the Bureau and welcomed all members of the Bureau and the Secretariat. She particularly thanked Mr. Franz Perrez for his participation from Switzerland by phone.

1. Adoption of agenda

The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda that had been circulated in advance.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the first meeting, held on 5 October 2005

The Bureau adopted the minutes of the first meeting after considering comments from its members on the draft minutes circulated by the Secretariat. As has been the practice, the minutes will be posted in the UNFF website for general information.

3. Informal consultations and briefings

The Bureau agreed that briefings by the Chair to the negotiating/regional groups in New York will be very useful to enhance awareness of the upcoming sixth session of the

Forum. The Secretariat had already made conference room reservation for the briefings during the period 29 November – 2 December 2005.

The Bureau also considered the idea of holding 1-2 day informal consultations with the member States to advance the preparation for the formal negotiations during the sixth session. The Bureau noted that any such informal consultations would only be advisable if they add value and are planned properly with clear objectives and focused agenda. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a concept note on informal consultations with clear objectives and scope including specific topics, such as regionalization of the UNFF, for consideration at its next meeting.

4. Adjustment on the meeting schedule

The Bureau reviewed the dates of meetings tentatively set at its first meeting and updated the schedule after taking into account various factors. It was also agreed that to maximize the efficiency of members who travel from abroad, the bureau meetings in New York would be for the duration of 2 days. The new schedule would be as follows:

- *28 - 29 November 2005*: third meeting
- *29 November - 2 December 2005*: briefings to negotiating/regional groups in New York
- *11- 13 January 2006*: one day for informal consultations, if it would be decided to hold informal consultations
- *25 - 26 January 2006*: fourth meeting
- *12 February 2006*: fifth meeting
- *13-24 February 2006*: daily meetings during the sixth session

The Bureau will schedule an additional meeting during the country-led initiative in Berlin (16-18 November 2005). It is expected that all the four bureau members including Mr. Tono Kruzic (Croatia) would be present at the Berlin meeting.

5. Discussion on the plan for the preparation of the Sixth Session

Mr. Pekka Patosaari presented an oral overview of an internal analysis done by the Secretariat on the outcome of the fifth session (i.e., bracketed text of the Chairman) and critical issues for consensus building at the sixth session of the Forum. The Bureau appreciated such an analysis and requested the Secretariat to provide it in writing for their information (and for strategic planning purposes only).

6. Discussion on organization of work of the Sixth Session

The Bureau held a preliminary discussion on key elements of an organization of work for the 2-week period of the sixth session in February 2006. It considered dividing the workload efficiently between plenary sessions and two working groups. It was also recognized that an early and balanced allocation of issues among the two working groups, and division of labour among the Bureau members would greatly facilitate the planning for the session. The Bureau also held a view that most of the work should be done in working group setup and that plenary sessions should be kept to minimum. How to address the issue of developing a new multi-year programme of work for the Forum should receive careful consideration at the future bureau meetings.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would provide a draft detailed organization of work for the next meeting of the Bureau to reflect upon and react to.

7. Other matters

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the pending nomination of a bureau member from GRULAC. As per the Bureau's request the Secretariat sent letters to the Chairman of the regional group over the past several months requesting for the nomination from the region. However, no notification on the group nomination had been received yet. The Bureau underscored the importance of having full Bureau for effective preparations of the sixth session. It decided that the Bureau Chair should contact the regional group to expedite its nomination.

The Bureau also requested the Chair to contact the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the United Nations to further discuss the allocation of conference rooms for negotiations, particularly for working groups.

Closing of the meeting

Prof. Bahemuka thanked the Bureau members and the Secretariat for their active participation in the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm.