

**United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
Bureau of the Eighth Session (UNFF8 Bureau)**

Minutes of the third meeting

6 May 2008 (Tuesday)
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

One UN Plaza, DC 1 – 1235
New York

Participation

Bureau members: Dr. Boen M. Purnama, Mr. Arvids Ozols, Mr. Abdellah Benmellouk and Dr . Glen Kile.

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Peter Csoka, Dr. Mahendra Joshi, Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchill, Ms. Afsa Kemitale, Ms. Mita Sen and Ms. Ghazal Badiozamani.

Others: Dr. Teguh Rahardja, Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia, and Mr. Tri Tharyat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia.

Opening

Dr. Boen Purnama, Chairman, opened the third meeting of the Bureau and welcomed the members of the UNFF8 Bureau. He informed members that, despite the travel support provided, Dr. Modesto Fernandez could not participate, because of visa related issue. Travel support was possible to provide through a designated contribution by a donor government to the UNFF Trust Fund, received just in time for supporting eligible members' travel to attend the Bureau meeting.

1. Adoption of agenda

The Bureau adopted the following agenda for the meeting:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. General review of preparations for the Ad Hoc Expert Group
3. Preparations for the Eighth session of the UN Forum on Forests
4. Other matters

2. General review of the preparations for the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Finance to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework

The Bureau considered and took necessary decisions on the following matters related to the preparations for the Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting:

2.1 Dates, venue and working modality of the AHEG on finance

After careful consideration of a number of factors, including timing and the availability of conference services (in particular, conference rooms and interpretation), the Bureau decided to convene the Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting in Vienna, Austria, from 3 to 7 November 2008. It was expected that this decision on the dates and venue of the AHEG would facilitate the planning process for Member States, as well as the Secretariat.

Taking into account the significance of the 'finance' issue and its direct link with one of the main agenda items of the Eighth session of the Forum, the Bureau decided that it would conduct the AHEG meeting.

2.2 CPF Advisory Group on Finance

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the outcome of the second meeting of the CPF Advisory Group on Finance (AGF) meeting, held on 13 February 2008 in Bonn, Germany. The AGF members were committed to supporting the work of the AHEG. They have decided to conduct an analytical study, a so-called "mapping exercise", to review the needs and existing available funding sources and mechanisms in order to address the provisions of the NLBI. This study would also take into account new developments, including those in the climate change arena. Preliminary results of the mapping exercise could be presented at the CLI meeting to receive feedback from the participants on its findings, and to get additional relevant information. The AGF members also emphasized that the official document for AHEG, which would draw, *inter alia*, from the findings of the study, should be neutral in its dealing with the three options for financing instruments listed in the ECOSOC resolution.

The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that FAO has begun part of the mapping exercise through the updating of the CPF Sourcebook for financing SFM. The AGF is in the process of finalizing the consultant's terms of reference for the remaining aspects of the study.

The Bureau expressed appreciation to the CPF AGF for this important initiative in particular the support of FAO and the World Bank, and for the continued support in the preparations for the AHEG on finance.

2.3 Documentation for AHEG

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the status of the document preparations for the AHEG meeting. The official documents would include a provisional agenda and the

Secretariat's substantive notes, in order to facilitate the tasks given to the AHEG by ECOSOC decision 2007/40. Some additional background information and/or documents could also be made available, if needed.

The Bureau welcomed the document preparations and underscored the need to make available all relevant documents well in advance of the AHEG meeting, in all official languages.

2.4 Country-led Initiative (CLI) on Financing Sustainable Forest Management – “The Paramaribo Dialogue”

The Bureau exchanged ideas on the information provided by the sponsors of the CLI at the first Advisory Committee (AC) meeting, held on the previous day (5 May 2008), which was attended by the four Bureau members (except Dr. Fernandez). It welcomed the planned CLI on financing SFM, co-sponsored by the Governments of Suriname, the Netherlands, and the United States of America, which would be convened in Paramaribo, Suriname, from 8 to 12 September 2008. It was anticipated that the CLI would provide an excellent opportunity to raise awareness on different aspects of financing, including public, private and philanthropic sources. It could thus provide important input to the work of the AHEG. The Bureau therefore emphasized the need to make available the report of the CLI and presentation of its key outcomes to the AHEG.

All Bureau members would make the effort to participate in the CLI meeting in September. Considering the scope and potential contribution of this CLI, the Bureau was of the view that the CLI sponsors should plan to make the CLI complementary to the work of the AHEG. It, therefore, would encourage the sponsors to make the CLI inclusive and balanced in its participation. In regard to the invitations to join the AC of the CLI, Bureau members would communicate to the sponsors about their respective representatives to the AC after consulting with their respective governments. The Bureau Chair would inform the sponsors about these discussions.

3. Preparations for the Eighth session of the UN Forum on Forests

3.1 Roadmap

The Secretariat presented a revised roadmap for the consideration of the Bureau, which included the key UNFF8-related activities (Bureau meeting schedule, documentation processing schedule, AHEG, CLIs, etc.), and other relevant events outside of the UNFF (e.g., meetings of the CPF member organizations, ECOSOC, CSD, etc.). The Bureau found the roadmap very useful for planning purposes.

Regarding the future meeting dates and venues of the Bureau, the Bureau decided the following:

- Meet during the CLI in Suriname (September 2008), if all Bureau members could be present there;

- Meet on Sunday, 2 November 2008, just prior to the AHEG meeting, in Vienna. The Bureau would meet, as necessary, during the AHEG; and
- Look into the possibility of a meeting in-between the CLI and AHEG to prepare the organization of work for the AHEG, including the division of responsibilities during the AHEG meeting. Efforts should be made to hold a physical meeting, but if that proved unfeasible, then a tele-conference would be convened.

The Bureau also discussed the recently-concluded meetings in support of the UNFF; in particular, the Region-Led Initiative (RLI) on regional inputs in support of the UNFF, held in Geneva (28-30 January 2008) and a CLI on forest governance and decentralization in Africa, which took place in Durban, South Africa (8-11 April 2008).

3.2 Documentation for UNFF8

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the titles and process to prepare documents for the Session. The documents would be based on the respective decision of the Forum and the provisional agenda for UNFF8, as adopted by ECOSOC, and their preparation would include web-forums, cooperation with CPF members and consultations with the Bureau, as and when needed. The Bureau advised that the documents focus on the themes of the session, progress and lessons learned, and with the expected output of the Session in mind. In the context of “Forests in a changing environment” – one of the UNFF8 themes – the members advised to strategically link to the recent developments in the Rio Conventions, for example, to climate change negotiations as related to forests in the post-Kyoto Protocol phase and to emphasise how SFM comprehensively and holistically address all aspects of forests including with REDD. The Bureau again underscored a need to make available all official documents in UN languages, in advance.

3.3 CPF Strategy meeting

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the outcome of the strategy meeting of the CPF, which was held in Bonn on 14-15 February 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to develop new strategy for enhanced cooperation and coordination in the context of the NLBI and the new MYPOW of the Forum, and new developments, in particular in the context of climate change. The CPF participants focused their strategy discussion on: issues of forest finance, climate change, harmonized forest-related monitoring, assessment and reporting, and forest law enforcement and governance. The general thrust that emerged from the meeting was that CPF members should speak with a “common voice”, and that the CPF stands ready to support the UNFF in its new phase of work.

4. Other matters

The Bureau discussed and/or exchanged information on other matters of interest to the Bureau, including the following:

4.1 The meeting between the ECOSOC Bureau and the Chairpersons of the functional Commissions (New York, 29 January 2008)

Dr. Purnama informed the Bureau members about the meeting between the ECOSOC Bureau and the chairmen of the functional commissions, which he attended on the UNFF Bureau's behalf. The meeting was mainly focused on further developing synergy and coherence in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular, in the context of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) at the Council sessions. At the meeting, Dr. Purnama informed the Council of new developments in UNFF, and assured the Council of providing relevant information and cooperation.

4.2 Staffing of the Secretariat

The Bureau took note of the current serious staffing situation of the Secretariat, including the recruitment process for the post of Director, and the lack of secondments. In this regard, Dr. Purnama informed the Bureau members about his meeting with Mr. Sha Zukang on the previous day, when he was updated by Mr. Zukang of the recruitment process, and that he had assured him about expediting the process.

4.3 UN reform

The Secretariat briefed on the ongoing UN reform process. It provided inputs to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in developing proposals for strengthening the development pillar of the UN system.

4.4 The UNFF Trust Fund

The Secretariat provided an update on the Trust Fund and the donors' contributions, including on the recently-received earmarked contribution for travel support to the eligible Bureau members to attend Bureau meetings. The Bureau thanked the efforts made by Dr. Glen Kile to mobilize resources within the WEOG region for this particular purpose. The Bureau noted the need for the continued effort to mobilize additional funding for the successful AHEG and UNFF8 meetings, and for strengthening the capacity of the Secretariat.

4.5 Regional Forestry Commission and other related meetings

The Secretariat briefed on the FAO's regional forestry commission meetings held in the recent past. This included the joint meeting of the 16th session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWG-16) and the 18th session of the Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC-18), held in Khartoum, Sudan, from 18 to 21 February; and the 22nd session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC-22), in combination with the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW), held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 21 to 26 April. The APFC was also attended by Dr. Purnama. The Bureau welcomed the decision by the APFC-22 to submit its input to UNFF8 in response to the call by UNFF, and expected that other regional commissions and relevant entities would also submit inputs. The

Bureau advised the Secretariat to consider ways to provide opportunity for regional presentations when developing an organization of work for UNFF8.

The Bureau was also briefed about the engagement of the Secretariat in other related conferences and meetings, in particular, on the International Conference on combating desertification, held in Beijing, China, on 22-24 January 2008, in support of the CSD-16.

Closing of the meeting

Dr. Purnama thanked the Bureau members and the Secretariat for their active participation in the meeting. The meeting was concluded at 5:00 pm.