

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

Minutes of the Fifth meeting

The UN Headquarters, DC 1 – 1235, New York
13 February 2006

Participation

Bureau members: H.E. Prof. Judith Mbula Bahemuka; Mr. Majdi Ramadan, Mr. Jose Antonio Doig and Mr. Tono Kruzic.

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Mr. Mahendra Joshi, Mr. Jorge Illueca, Mr. Peter Csoka, Ms. Njeri Kariuki and Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchil.

Secretary of the Forum: Ms. Vivian Pliner-Josephs

Others: Mr. Fredrick Matwang'a (Kenyan Mission), Mr. Stefano Toscano (Swiss Mission) and Ms. Irena Zubcevic (Croatian Mission)

Note: The meeting was originally scheduled for Sunday, 12 February 2006. However, due to heavy snowstorm on Sunday, the meeting had to be rescheduled for Monday, 13 February 2006 at 9:00 am. Due to the same snowstorm, Mr. Franz Perrez was unable to travel to New York on time for the meeting on Monday, 13 February and was represented by Mr. Stefano Toscano from the Swiss Mission.

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

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the fourth meeting, held on 25-26 January 2006\
3. Final review of the preparations for UNFF6
4. Joint bureau meeting with ECOSOC Bureau
5. Other Business

Opening of the meeting

H.E. Prof. Judith M. Bahemuka, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, New York and chair of the Bureau called the meeting to order at 9.00am on 13 February 2006 before the opening meeting of the Forum and concluded the remaining agenda items after the closing of meetings of the Forum at 4 pm.

The Chair and the Bureau members met with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and its outgoing Chair, Mr. Hosny El-Lakany before the afternoon meeting of the Bureau. The Bureau recognized the contribution of Mr. El-Lakany to forest policy issues and support to UNFF as the head of the FAO Forestry Department and Chair of CPF.

1. Adoption of agenda

The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda that had been circulated in advance, with additional items under "Other matters".

2. Adoption of the minutes of the fourth meeting, held on 25-26 January 2006

The Bureau adopted the minutes of the fourth meeting.

3. Final review of the preparations for the sixth session

The Bureau reviewed the final informal briefing conducted by the Chair to the member States on Friday, 3 February 2006. The briefing gave an opportunity to delegates and the Bureau on how to proceed with the organization of work for the sixth session. In addition, the Bureau reviewed the preparations for the following issues and activities:

- a. Organization of work
- b. Opening session on Monday, 13 February, and election of officers by Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo, Under- Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- c. Opening statements by Chairman and the Under- Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- d. Recognition to the out-going Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Mr. Hosny EL-Lakany, and statement by Chair of CPF
- e. Introduction of the official document on agenda items 3 by Director of the Secretariat
- f. General statements by groups and individual countries
- g. Logistics matters
- h. Welcome reception by the Bureau on Monday, 13 February 2006

4. Joint bureau meeting with ECOSOC Bureau

The Bureau decided to propose to ECOSOC to hold a joint meeting of the two bureaux on Friday, 17 February 2006 at 3:15-4:00 pm.

5. Other matters

a. Scheduling of the Bureau meetings during the session

The Bureau would meet everyday in the afternoon after the meetings of the Forum conclude to take stock of the day and plan for the next day. It would hold additional meetings if necessary.

b. Accreditation of IGOs

At its fourth meeting, the Bureau had decided to recommend to the Forum granting "Observer" status to the Secretariats of the COMIFAC (based in Cameroon) and of the Pacific Community (New Caledonia) as intergovernmental organizations. In addition, the UNFF Secretariat recently received a request from the Asia Forest Partnership (AFP) for accreditation. The UNFF Secretariat, which is also one of the founding partners of AFP, reviewed the mandates and activities of AFP. On its recommendation the Bureau decided to recommend AFP's accreditation to the Forum accordingly.

c. Side events

The Chairman Ms. Bahemuka would chair the side event of the major groups on Monday, 13 February afternoon (1:15 – 2:45 pm), and would also attend the side event of COFIFAC on Tuesday, 14 February 2006.

Closing of the meeting

The Chair thanked the Bureau members and the Secretariat for their active participation in the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 6.00 PM.

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Record of the meetings of the Bureau during the sixth session (13-24 February 2006)

The Bureau held daily meetings everyday in the afternoon after the Forum sessions were over from 13 to 23 February 2006 including one on Saturday, 18 February 2006 to review the work in progress and plan for the next day (total 10 meetings).

The Bureau also held a joint meeting with ECOSOC Bureau on Friday, 17 February 2006 on issues of mutual concern.