

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

**Minutes of the Fifth meeting
(tele-conference)**

21 October (9:00 – 11:00 AM) New York time (EST)

Participation

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

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Peter Csoka and Dr. Mahendra Joshi.

Others: Ms. Jan McAlpine (USA) and Mr. Rizal Purnama (Indonesian Mission, New York).

Opening

The Bureau of the UNFF8 convened its fifth meeting through tele-conference.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Boen Purnama, Chairman. The purpose of the tele-conference was to review the preparations for the Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting, to be held in Vienna from 10 to 14 November 2008.

The Bureau reviewed a revised organization of work (dated 20 October), which was prepared by the Secretariat based on the comments received from Bureau members to the draft prepared after the fourth meeting of the Bureau. It also discussed the role of the Bureau in steering the AHEG meeting, as well as the briefings to the delegations in New York on the AHEG and the Suriname CLI. The summary of the decisions are the following:

1. Organization of Work

The Bureau appreciated the revised version (dated 20 October), as it presented a simpler clustering of the issues for each day of the meeting. However, it emphasized a need to balance between structuring the discussion and providing flexibility, so that participating experts do not feel too much guided. Accordingly, the Bureau advised the Secretariat to revise the organization of work further.

2. Role of the Bureau

As decided earlier, the Bureau would lead the AHEG meeting. As such, Mr. Purnama as Chairman, would chair the opening and closing sessions. Teams of two Vice-Chairs would chair the remaining meeting sessions in alternate order.

3. Bureau meetings

The Bureau would meet in Vienna on Sunday, 9 November, to review the final preparations for AHEG. The Secretariat would inform the Bureau about the venue and time of the meeting. It was further suggested that the Bureau would meet every evening during the AHEG.

4. Briefing to the delegations in New York

The Bureau decided to brief the national delegations based in New York about the preparations for the AHEG. Mr. Benmellouk, with support from the Secretariat, would conduct the briefing on Monday, 27 October. The Bureau welcomed the planned briefing by the co-sponsors of the Suriname CLI on 27 October on the outcome of the CLI meeting, held in Paramaribo on 8-12 September, and decided to coordinate the two briefings.

5. Other matters

- The Bureau congratulated Ms. Jan McAlpine for her selection to the position of Director of the Secretariat, and hoped for her recruitment to finalize as early as possible.
- The Secretariat updated the Bureau on participation and documentation status as well as other practical logistic matters in writing, due to shortage of time to cover this issue during the teleconference.