

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

**Minutes of the Third meeting
Monday -Tuesday, 28-29 November 2005**

Participation

Bureau members: H.E. Prof. Judith Mbula Bahemuka; Mr. Majdi Ramadan, Mr. Franz Perrez, and Mr. Tono Kruzic (by telephone).

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

Secretary of the UN Forum on Forests: Ms Vivian Pliner-Josephs

Others: Ms. Irena Zubcevic (Croatian Mission), and Mr. Fredrick Matwang'a, Ms. Catherine Mogaka and Dr. T. M'mella (Kenyan Mission).

The agenda of the third meeting of the Bureau, held on 28-29 November 2005, was as follows:

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the second meeting, held on 1 November 2005
3. Review of the outcome of the Country-led Initiative in Berlin (16-18 Nov 2005)
4. Discussion on the Secretariat's analysis of the Chairman's text of UNFF5
5. Organization of work of the Sixth Session
6. Briefings to negotiating groups (29 Nov – 2 Dec 2005)
7. Informal consultations
8. Other matters

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 10.00am on 28 November 2005 and welcomed all members of the Bureau and their representatives as well as the members of the Secretariat. Prof. Bahemuka also informed the Bureau that she had contacted the Chairman of GRULAC regarding the pending nomination of a Bureau member from the Group. Indications were that the Group was to consider the nomination within the last week of November 2005 and immediately communicate their nomination to the Chair.

1. Adoption of agenda

The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda that had been circulated in advance, with minor amendments.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the second meeting, held on 1 November 2005

The Bureau adopted the minutes of the second meeting.

3. Review of the outcome of the Country-led Initiative in Berlin (16-18 Nov 2005)

The Bureau reviewed the outcome of the country-led initiative (CLI) in support of UNFF titled, "Scoping for a future agreement on forests", held in Berlin from 16 to 18 November 2005. All Bureau members, except for Mr. Ramadan, including Mr. Kruzic were present in the meeting. The Bureau found the CLI very timely and helpful in its preparation for the sixth session, particularly its detailed deliberation on the issues regarding voluntary instruments (such as code, technical guidelines, understanding, global programme of action, etc.), regional dimension of UNFF and means of implementation. The outcome of the CLI meeting was considered constructive and helpful in enhancing the understanding of issues that would be central to the negotiations at the sixth session. The CLI provided opportunities for the Bureau to informally meet and also conduct bilateral consultations with country experts.

4. Discussion on the Secretariat's analysis of the Chairman's text of UNFF5

The Secretariat presented its analysis of the different issues contained in the Chairman's text of UNFF5 and the possible elements that the Bureau might wish to consider in its planning for the sixth session. The Bureau found the analysis and the resulting discussions useful in understanding the critical issues of the negotiation, and decided to continue exchange of views in the future.

5. Organization of work of the Sixth Session

The Bureau discussed on a likely format of the organization of work for UNFF6, based on a draft note prepared by the Secretariat. The Secretariat proposed to divide the topics/issues contained in the UNFF5 Chairman's text between the two working groups in a balanced manner. The Bureau discussed how to distribute workload between the Working Groups and also on possibility of establishing issue-specific contact groups. The Bureau noted the emphasis of member States to allocate sufficient time and other facilities for negotiations. In this context, the Bureau discussed in particular how to allocate time for general statements.

The Bureau also considered how best to divide responsibilities among the Bureau members. It decided to consider division of responsibilities once the nomination of the member from GRULAC, which was anticipated to come in near future.

6. Briefings to negotiating groups (29 Nov – 2 Dec 2005)

The Bureau reviewed its preparations for the series of briefings to the three main negotiating groups (G77 and China, European Union and JUSCANZ) as scheduled to take place from 1.15 - 2.45pm on 29, 30 November and 2 December. It was decided that all Bureau members, present in New York, would also participate in the briefings. The Bureau member from Croatia highlighted the need to consider a briefing/informal exchange of views session with countries in transition that are in neither of the negotiating Groups targeted for the briefings.

7. Informal consultations

The Bureau decided to receive views from member States during the briefings (to be held on 29 November – 2 December 2005) on the need and desirability of convening informal consultations prior to the sixth session. The Chair was to communicate to the

members of the Bureau on this matter as early as possible. The Chair was to also provide the bureau members her suggested division of responsibilities among the Bureau members as early as soon as she would receive the nomination from GRULAC.

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 12.00 noon on 29 November 2005 (second day of the meeting).