

**United Nations Forum on Forests
Bureau of the Seventh Session (UNFF7 Bureau)
Minutes of the fifth meeting**

UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, New York
31 January 2007 (Wednesday)
9:00 – 3:00 PM
One UN Plaza, DC 1 -12th floor Conference room

Participation

Bureau members: Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali and Mr. Arvids Ozols. Mr. Abraham Quezada represented H.E. Mr. Cristian Maquieira and Mr. Gregoire Lomba represented Mr. Andre-Jules Madingou.

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Mr. Mahendra Joshi, Mr. Jorge Illueca, Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchill, Ms. Afsa Kemitale and Ms. Catalina Santamaria.

Secretary of the Forum: Ms. Vivian Pliner.

Others: Mr. Razif Mubin, Permanent Mission of Malaysia and Mr. Julio Torres, Permanent Mission of Chile.

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

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the fourth meeting, held on 10 December 2006
3. Preparations for the seventh session of the UN Forum on Forests
4. Meeting of the chairpersons of the Functional Commissions and the Council Bureau
5. Other matters

Opening of the meeting

Mr. Hoogeveen chaired the fifth meeting and welcomed all members of the Bureau and the Secretariat. The Chair also informed the Bureau that representatives of the Permanent Mission of Indonesia would brief the Bureau at 11:30 am on the preparations of the Bali country-led initiative.

1. Adoption of agenda

The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda circulated in advance without amendments.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the fourth meeting, held on 10 December 2006

The draft minutes of the fourth meeting circulated by the Secretariat were adopted by the Bureau.

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

The Bureau members exchanged their views on a number of issues related to the preparations for the seventh session of the Forum including documentation, as well as organizational and strategic planning.

3.1 Follow-up to the ad hoc expert group (AHEG) meeting of December 2006 and revised draft composite text on the content of the non-legally binding instrument (NLBI)

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the Report of the AHEG and follow-up activities. It informed the Bureau of steps taken to respond to the AHEG's request of revising the structure of the instrument, distilling a number of sections and preparing a 2nd revised draft composite text on the content of the NLBI, as a part of the Note by the Secretariat for the seventh session. The Bureau members provided their inputs to the draft text and expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat for the quality of work in preparing the 2nd draft composite text.

Decisions taken:

- The Note with the revised 2nd draft composite text would be submitted for processing and web-posting.
- During the CLI meeting in Bali on 16 February, the UNFF 7 Bureau would brief the participants on the 2nd draft composite text and other preparations of UNFF7.

3.2 Multi-year programme of work (MYPOW)

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the draft report of the Secretary General on the multi-year programme of work (MYPOW), highlighting the structure, the Global Objectives on Forests as a basis and other key building blocks of the report. The Bureau provided their inputs to the draft and focused discussions on a number of issues. Views were exchanged on how to address emerging issues; seven thematic elements; the role of the UNFF with regional process/organizations/bodies; regional input on thematic topics of the MYPOW into the UNFF sessions; intersessional periods; among others. It was discussed to include a reference to the role of the seven thematic elements of SFM on MYPOW in the report.

Decisions taken:

- The Report by the Secretary-General on MYPOW would be submitted for processing and web-posting.
- Prepare and provide a discussion note to the CLI, based on the draft report by S-G on MYPOW.
- Consider possible contents of a draft resolution text on MYPOW to facilitate negotiations at UNFF 7 based on input from the Bali CLI and possible budget implications of any decisions to be taken by the Forum.

3.5 The Bali Country-led Initiative in February 2007

The Bureau was updated by the Indonesian Mission on the preparations of the Bali CLI (13 to 16 February 2007). The mission representatives informed members of the programme of work including high-level dignitaries, participation and special events as well as documentation and expected outcomes.

Decisions taken:

- The Bureau members and CLI organizers would work together to make the participation of experts better reflect geographical distribution.
- The Bureau agreed to meet during the Bali CLI and to address the plenary on the closing day of the CLI, mainly to brief on the preparations for UNFF7.

3.3 Other documents for UNFF7

The Secretariat brief the Bureau on the preparations of other official documentation for UNFF 7, including on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination and major groups discussion papers.

Decisions taken:

- The Secretariat would brief the Bureau at its next meeting in Bali on the documentation.

3.4 Organization of work for UNFF7

The Bureau reviewed the tentative organization of work during for the seventh session of the Forum (16-27 April 2007). Special panel events were discussed and a new arrangement for the MSD was also examined. Information was also provided on travel support to developing country participants (deadline 3rd of March).

Decisions taken:

- As requested by the major groups, the option of holding the multi-stakeholder dialogue (MSD) in two separate days was approved instead of having it in one day.
- The ECOSOC Secretariat will look after conference room facilities and interpretation requirements for plenary and two working group.

3.6 Briefing to the member States

The Bureau discussed items to be included in the informal briefings for member States on the preparations and expected outcomes of the seventh session.

Decisions taken:

- Bureau decided to hold informal briefings to all member States in New York on the 5th of March from 1:15 to 3:00pm. They also decided to hold the 7th meeting of the Bureau on the 5th of March from 9am to 1pm.

4. Meeting of the chairpersons of the Functional Commissions and the Council Bureau

The Chair informed the members of the meeting between the Chairs of the functional commissions and the Bureau of ECOSOC which took place on 15 January 2007. The Bureau expressed views on the level of interaction between the different Commissions and supported the need to strengthen closer links between the Bureaus and in integrating substantive topics of ECOSOC programme of work to the MYPOW so to provide substantive and coordinated inputs to ECOSOC, in view of the recent General Assembly resolution on strengthening of ECOSOC (E/RES/61/16). The Bureau was also informed of the invitation by the UNFCCC Secretariat to DESA for preparing a paper on the mitigation of climate change. The Secretariat has proposed to USG that the UNFFS/World Bank paper on Means on Implementation should be that paper.

Decisions taken:

- UNFF Bureau structure and continuity after UNFF7 will be discussed at the next Bureau meeting. The Secretariat will prepare background a note for the Bureau.

5. Other matters

5.1 Revised road map

As per regular practice, the Bureau reviewed the updated Roadmap to UNFF7. Members agreed to:

- 1) hold the 6th meeting of the Bureau on 14th of February 2007 at 1pm in Bali during the lunch time. The organizers have confirmed the date, time and venue for this meeting.
- 2) hold the 7th meeting of the Bureau on 5 March 2007 from 9am-1pm.
- 3) hold informal briefings on preparations and documentation of UNFF7 on 5 March 2007, from 1:15 to 3pm at UN headquarters.

Decisions taken:

- Revise the roadmap as per Bureau's input.

5.2 CPF-related information and activities

Secretariat updated the Bureau on CPF issues, highlighting the CPF Framework document being prepared for UNFF7, the next CPF meeting which will be held back to back with COFO in March 2007 and the World Bank study paper on finance and means of implementation. The Bureau exchanged ideas on World Bank paper and the course of action for its wider circulation.

The Secretariat also informed the Bureau of two of the CPF members support to facilitate in the work of the Forum at UNFF7, through additional personnel assistance from UNEP and World Bank during the session.

5.3 Fund raising for 2007

The Secretariat informed the Bureau members of the need for contributions to its trust fund in order to effectively support travel of participants from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to UNFF7.

Decisions taken:

- The Bureau members would continue to encourage countries to contribute to the UNFF Trust Fund.

Closing of the meeting

Mr. Hoogeveen thanked the Bureau members and the secretariat for their participation in the meeting and adjourned the meeting.