

United Nations Forum on Forests
Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Bureau of the Thirteenth Session
19 February 2018 (13:00 - 15:00), FAO HQ, Rome

Participation

Bureau Members: Ambassador Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob (Malaysia), Ambassador Koki Muli Grignon (Kenya), Ms. Luciana Melchert Saguas Presas (Brazil), Ms. Maureen Whelan (Canada), Mr. Tomas Krejzar (Czech Republic)

UNFF Secretariat: Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Mr. Hossein Moeini Meybodi (via Skype), Ms. Mita Sen, Mr. Ryo Nakamura

Others: Ms. Christa Mooney (Canada), Ms. Natalie Benesova (Czech Republic)

Summary of Key Actions/Decisions

- 1. The Bureau agreed to organise a one-day UNFF event on forests on 8 July 2018 in New York, prior to High-Level Political Forum 2018.**
- 2. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting in conjunction with UNFF13 in May 2018.**

Provisional Agenda
3rd Meeting of the UNFF13 Bureau
1:00 pm- 3:00 pm, 19 February 2018
Mexico Room, FAO-HQ, Rome- Italy

- 1- Adoption of the provisional agenda
- 2- Preparations for UNFF13:
 - a. Updates on the status of official documents for UNFF13
 - b. Discussions on the modality/arrangement for the UNFF13 Ministerial Roundtable
- 3- CPF Conference, and the role of the Bureau members
- 4- Update on the one-day forests event prior to High-Level Political Forum 2018
- 5- Update on the Expert Group Meeting on the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network being held in Chengdu, China
- 6- Other matters

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda

The provisional agenda of the third meeting was adopted.

2. Preparations for UNFF13

a. Updates on the status of official documents for UNFF13

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the status of official documents for UNFF13, outlining the scope of the respective documents that were prepared by UNFFS, including the provisional agenda, the report of the SG on the implementation of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33, and the Notes by the Secretariat on the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF), on contributions by the CPF, regional and sub-regional organizations and processes and major groups and other stakeholders to the implementation of the UNSPF, on monitoring, assessment and reporting on the progress in implementation of the UNSPF and the UN Forest Instrument, on means of implementation and on the Forum Trust Fund.

The Secretariat also noted that the Co-Chairs Summary of the CPF International Conference would be transmitted by a Member State to be considered as part of the official documentation for the session.

b. Discussions on the modality/arrangement for the UNFF13 Ministerial Roundtable

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the modality/arrangement for the UNFF13 Ministerial Roundtable.

The Bureau stressed the need for flexibility in the format of discussions, and that the outcome document, should highlight key messages from the Forum. Bureau members also emphasized the need to make these discussions interactive, dynamic and useful contributions to the work of HLPF. It was suggested that the 3-hour session could be divided into two one and half hour segments to enable greater participation in discussions. It was noted that the outcome of the roundtable discussions would be contained in the Chair's summary which would constitute the Forum's input to HLPF 2018.

3. CPF Conference, and the role of the Bureau members

The Secretariat provided an update on the status of preparation of the CPF Conference and the role of the Bureau members, outlining the scope of the plenary and thematic sessions to be held during the conference, and the expected scope of the conference outcome, which would be submitted to UNFF13.

4. Update on the “one-day event on forests” prior to High-Level Political Forum 2018

The Secretariat updated the Bureau that the ECOSOC President had communicated that she would positively consider attending the event, but that organising the event as a joint ECOSOC/DESA event would probably not be feasible. The Bureau reiterated their interest in holding the 8 July event, as an opportunity to highlight the important role of forests in contributing the implementation of the SDGs, and in particular the SDGs under review at HLPF 2018. The event was also seen as an avenue for highlighting the outcome of UNFF13 discussions.

5. Update on the Expert Group Meeting on the GFFFN in China

The Secretariat briefed that Bureau that 41 experts from 26 countries (21 from developing countries), 5 international organizations, 2 major groups organisation had confirmed their participation in the expert group meeting on the Contribution of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) to the Implementation of the UNSPF to be held from 6-8 March 2018 in Chengdu. The Secretariat also advised the Bureau that the outcome of the expert group meeting would be presented at UNFF13 during the plenary session on means of implementation.

6. Other matters

The Chair provided an update on the outcome of his meeting with DESA USG in response to the Bureau decision made at its last meeting, at which he was informed that no decision has yet been made by DESA regarding the reform proposal to merge UNFFS with DSD. He shared that USG reiterated DESA's continued support for the work of the Forum. It was noted that the DESA reform process is on a separate track from the SG's management reform, peace and security, development system reform tracks.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.