

**United Nations Forum on Forests**  
**Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Fourteenth Session**  
**8 January (10:00–13:00) & 11 January (17:00-18:30) 2019**  
**UNHQ, New York**

**Participation**

**Bureau Members:** Mr. Boris Greguška (Slovak Republic), Mr. Javad Momeni (Iran), Mr. Rob Busink (The Netherlands), Ms. Luciana Melchert Saguas Presas (Brazil), Mr. Khalid Cherki (Morocco)

**Secretary of the Forum:** Mr. Ziad Mahmassani (interim)

**UNFF Secretariat:** Mr. Juwang Zhu, Mr. Hossein Moeini Meybodi, Ms. Mita Sen, Mr. Ryo Nakamura, Ms. Yan Lang

**Summary of Key Actions/Decisions**

1. **The Bureau agreed on the provisional organization of work of the UNFF14.**
  
2. **The Bureau decided to submit its initial input to the 2019 HLPF prior to UNFF14 to meet the deadline of 15 March 2019 set by the ECOSOC President, and provide the Forum's input after the conclusion of UNFF14.**
  
3. **The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on 3 May 2019 at UNHQ, New York, in advance of the UNFF 14.**

**Provisional Agenda**  
**Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Fourteenth Session**  
**8 January (10:00–13:00) & 11 January (17:00-18:30) 2019**  
**UNHQ, New York**

- 1- Adoption of the agenda**
- 2- Preparation for UNFF14:**
  - a. Matters related to the UNFF14 Bureau nominations**
  - b. Initial discussions on the UNFF14 provisional organization of work, including elements for inclusion in it**
- 3- Update on recent and upcoming events:**
  - a. UNFFS events at COP24**
  - b. CPF Retreat**
  - c. Meeting of the ECOSOC Bureau and Chairs of the Functional Commissions**
  - d. UNFF expert group meetings**
- 4- Next Bureau meeting**
- 5- Other matters**

## **1. Adoption of the provisional agenda**

Mr. Boris Greguška, Chair of the UNFF14 Bureau, welcomed members of the Bureau, interim Secretary of the Forum, and UNFF Secretariat to the second meeting of the UNFF 14 Bureau held at UNHQ, New York. Mr. Mahmassani informed the Bureau of the interim arrangement for him to serve as the Secretary of the Forum, following the reassignment of Mr. Moncef Khane. The UNFF 14 Bureau conveyed their appreciation to Mr. Moncef Khane for his contribution to the work of the Forum during the years he served as the Forum's Secretary.

The provisional agenda was adopted.

## **2. Preparation for UNFF14**

### **a. Matters related to the UNFF14 Bureau nominations**

The Bureau was informed of the nomination of Mr Khalid Cherki from Morocco as the Vice-Chair of the UNFF 14 Bureau from African Group. Members of the Bureau welcomed Mr Khalid Cherki.

Mr. Mahmassani noted that following the advice provided earlier, Ms. Luciana Melchert Saguas Presas, Vice-Chair of the UNFF13 Bureau from the Latin American and Caribbean Group, would continue to represent the group until the group nominate its UNFF14 Bureau member.

### **b. Initial discussions on the UNFF14 provisional organization of work, including elements for inclusion in it**

The Bureau considered the provisional organization of work of the UNFF14 based on a draft prepared by the secretariat. The Secretariat provided detailed explanation on the draft, and stated that, as a technical session, it is proposed to have several panels during UNFF14.

The Bureau considered the possibility of holding a series of the panel discussions including: i) Forests and climate change (SDG13); ii) Forests, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment (SDG8); iii) Forests, peaceful and inclusive societies, reduced inequality, education, and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG4, 10 and 16); iv) CPF members, UN partners, stakeholder contributions to implementation of the UNSPF; v) Mobilizing private sector action in support of UNSPF and the 2030 Agenda; vi) Communication and outreach and International Day of Forests 2019 activities; vii) Monitoring, assessment and reporting; viii) Means of implementation for sustainable forest management; ix) Enhancing cooperation, coordination and cross-sectoral engagement in support of implementation of the UNSPF and other forest-related international agreements; x) Actions by regional and sub-regional partners in support of the UNSPF; and xi) Actions by major groups partners in support of the UNSPF.

Ms. Melchert Saguas Presas expressed concerns of GRULAC over the title of the panel discussion on Forests and climate change and Forests, peaceful and inclusive societies, reduced inequality, education, and inclusive institutions at all levels. The Bureau agreed to take these

concerns into account in the provisional organization of work and the concept note for the panel discussions. She suggested “forests and adaptation to climate change”, instead of “forests and climate change”. She also asked for deletion of the word “peaceful” from the title of the Tuesday morning panel. In response, the Chair of the Bureau mentioned that based on consultation with the Bureau Members, he sent a letter in September 2018 to Members of the Forum, informing them of the thematic priorities for UNFF14 and the title of the proposed panels reflect those themes. Mr. Busink remarked that the themes of the panel discussions are based on forests in relation to the SDG’s that will be reviewed by HLPF 2019. We cannot change already agreed language on the SDG’s so the themes must reflect these wordings. Nevertheless, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to propose ideas to the Bureau, including addressing Ms. Persas’s concerns in the concept note for the panels.

Mr. Cherki shared his ideas and suggestions on how to further advance implementation of the UNSPF and more efficient use of the submitted VNCs. He suggested preparation of a simple format for the Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs) to help to organize them around each GFGs and related targets. He also suggested that the Secretariat synthesize the submitted VNCs based on their connections with different Global Forest Goals and targets, and as an information source. He also mentioned the need for integration of the UNSPF and GFGs into the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) at the country level.

After thorough discussions, the Bureau agreed on the proposed provisional organization of work, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a gender, geographical and sectoral balance, in organizing the panels. The Bureau also agreed to recommend panellists to the UNFF14 for this purpose, especially suggested panellist from private sector. The Secretariat added that it will circulate the information on the logistical arrangement and application of side events to the Members of the Forum in February 2019.

The Secretariat briefed on current financial status of the Forum’s trust fund, adding that no pledges have been made to the trust fund to provide travel supports for UNFF14. The Bureau expressed its concerns over the continued lack of funding to provide travel support since UNFF13, noting the importance to consult with their respective constituencies and encourage donors to contribute to the UNFF trust fund for this purpose.

### **3. Update on recent and upcoming events**

#### **a. UNFFS events at COP24**

The Secretariat updated the Bureau on the overview and key outcomes of the two side events organised by the Secretariat on 4 December and 13 December 2018, respectively, during the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Katowice, Poland, with the participation of representatives from countries and member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and other international organizations. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the organization of these events, and expressed satisfaction on the outcomes of

the events, suggesting similar events to be held in conjunction with other major forest-related meetings such as the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

#### **b. CPF Retreat**

The Secretariat shared key outcomes of the CPF retreat held from 10-11 December 2018 at FAO HQ in Rome. The Secretariat highlighted CPF decision to develop a CPF strategic vision towards 2030 in support of the implementation of the UNSPF to be agreed at a meeting of the CPF heads and principals in the second half of 2019. It was added that the CPF is planning to organise a donor meeting to advance implementation of its work plan in conjunction with the UNFF14. The Bureau welcomed the developments and noted the importance of the CPF activities in supporting the implementation of the UNSPF.

#### **c. Meeting of the ECOSOC Bureau and Chairs of Functional Commissions**

The Chair briefed other Bureau members on the outcome of the Annual Dialogue between ECOSOC Bureau and the Chairs of the ECOSOC Functional Commissions (FCs), held on 10 January in UN HQ. The main aim of the annual dialogue was to discuss on how FCs can contribute to the 2019 theme of ECOSOC and HLPF. The Chair mentioned that the report of this meeting would be shared with the members of the Bureau, once ready. The Chair also emphasized the importance for the Forum to provide its substantive input to the 2019 HLPF, which will be organized in July 2019 under ECOSOC, and in September 2019 under the General Assembly.

The Bureau also discussed possible ways to provide the Forum's input to the 2019 HLPF in response to the letter of the ECOSOC President to the Chair. In this context, the Bureau decided to submit inputs in two steps. At the first step, UNFF14 Bureau provides its concise input to the ECOSOC President to meet the deadline of 15 March 2019. At the second step, a more comprehensive input to be prepared during UNFF14 and submitted to the ECOSOC President, after the conclusion of UNFF14. As the HLPF is to meet under the GA in September 2019 to review implementation of the SDGs and it may also decide on its new programme of work, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to highlight the significance of the UNFF14 input to the HLPF 2019, in the concept notes for the panels on the thematic priorities of the session.

#### **d. UNFF expert group meetings**

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the latest preparations for the expert group meetings held in preparation for UNFF14, including i) Regional and Sub-Regional Input to the UNFF14 (7–8 January 2019, UNESCAP, Bangkok); ii) Review of the progress in implementation of the major groups workplans and their input to the UNFF14 (9–11 January 2019, UNESCAP, Bangkok); and iii) Clearing House of the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (9-11 January 2019, UNHQ, New York). It was added that a concise summary on the main outcome of these expert group meetings would be included in the UNFF14 documentation.

#### **4. Next Bureau meeting**

The Bureau agreed that its next meeting would be held on 3 May 2019 prior to the UNFF14. In the interim, virtual meeting would be convened when deemed necessary.

## **5. Other matters**

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Bureau discussed matters related to UNFFS and DESA reform, as well as the developments in regard to the appointment of the UNFFS Director. Mr. Juwang Zhu, Officer-in-Charge of the UNFF Secretariat, provided a brief update on these matters. He mentioned that a letter from Secretary-General has been sent to all Permanent Missions, containing information on the actions taken to reform DESA. He indicated that the Secretariat would be guided by the Member States. He also mentioned that the Secretariat has arranged a meeting between the Chair of UNFF14 and Mr. Zhenmin Liu, DESA USG during the week on the issue of the UNFFS Director.

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, the Chair informed the Bureau on the outcome of his meeting with Mr. Zhenmin Liu, DESA USG held on 10 January. He mentioned that Mr. Liu informed that DESA reform is an ongoing process and will be completed in consultation with Member States. Mr. Liu emphasized that UNFF will continue to be served by its secretariat in DESA regardless of the result of DESA reform, noting that the post of the Director of the UNFF Secretariat has been frozen during the reform. Following the report of the Chair, the Bureau emphasized the importance to consider follow-up actions to ensure that the current and future ability of the Forum and the sub-programme to fulfil its mandate and role is maintained as per UNFF13 resolution. They discussed various options to follow up on the appointment of the UNFFS Director, including possible communication from the Permanent Representatives of respective UNFF14 Bureau members to the Secretary General on this matter. The Bureau members agreed to further consult on such an option and be in contact with each other on this matter.

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm on 11 January 2019.*