

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

Minutes of the first meeting

UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, New York
Wednesday, 21 June 2006
10:00 AM – 12:45 PM

Participation

Bureau members: Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, Mr. Arvids Ozols and Mr. Andre-Jules Madingou. Mr. Razif Mubin represented H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali and Mr. Andres Landerretche represented H.E. Mr. Cristian Maquieira.

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. Obame Jean Christian, Gabon Mission.

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

1. General introduction and adoption of agenda
2. Decision on the Bureau chairmanship
3. Information about the preparations for the ad hoc working group on the non-legally binding instrument and UNFF7 session
4. Interagency collaboration and regional aspects of the international arrangement on forests
5. Information about the 2006 ECOSOC session
 - 5.1 Adoption of UNFF6 report and
 - 5.2 Meeting of the Chairmen of the functional commissions with the ECOSOC Bureau and a panel discussion on 7 July 2006
6. Decision on the next meeting and scheduling the future meetings of the Bureau
7. Other matters

1. General introduction and adoption of agenda

Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, welcomed the Bureau members to the first meeting of the Bureau of UNFF7. He informed the Bureau that H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali, and H.E. Mr. Cristian Maquieira, Bureau members from Malaysia and Chile respectively, had sent regrets for their inability to attend the meeting due to prior commitments. He also informed the Bureau that their representatives from the Permanent Missions were participating on their behalf.

Mr. Patosaari took the opportunity to brief the Bureau on the historical context of the international forest policy process leading to the establishment of the current international arrangement on forests, including the role of the UN Forum on Forests. He also briefed the

Bureau on the working modalities of the Bureau and its interaction with the Secretariat. Upon his proposal, the agenda of the meeting was adopted.

2. Decision on the Bureau chairmanship

As the Forum will formally elect the Chairman only on the opening day of the seventh session on 16 April 2007 in New York, Mr. Patosaari requested the Bureau to consider nominating a Chairman from among the members to guide the deliberations of the Bureau until the formal election is held.

The Bureau members unanimously nominated Mr. Hans Hoogeveen (The Netherlands) to act as the Chair of the UNFF7 Bureau. Mr. Hoogeveen accepted the invitation to chair the Bureau and thanked the Bureau members for their trust in him. He then chaired the rest of the meeting.

4. Interagency collaboration and regional aspects of the international arrangement on forests

The Bureau emphasized a need for the continued effort to enhance collaboration, cooperation and coordination with CPF and other forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions, instruments and processes. The Bureau was also of the view that approaches to enhance such collaboration and cooperation should also focus on governing bodies of such organizations, institutions, instruments and processes.

- *Second meeting:* 2-day meeting in second half of August 2006 (exact date to be determined by the end of June 2006 after consulting with all Bureau members);
- *Third meeting:* In late September or early October 2006; and
- *Fourth meeting:* Prior to ad hoc working group meeting in December 2006.

The Bureau, as a principle, would meet in New York.

7. Other matters

The Bureau considered some additional issues.

7.1 UNFF Trust Fund

The Secretariat briefed on the status and use of the trust fund for various purposes, particularly to support travel of developing country participants to UNFF sessions. It appealed to the Bureau for fundraising. The Bureau noted a need of additional funding for successful preparations of the upcoming AHWG and UNFF7 meetings, and assured that they would approach member States from the regions for their contributions. In this regard, Mr. Hoogeveen informed the Bureau that the Government of The Netherlands had decided to make a contribution to the UNFF trust fund.

7.2 Stakeholder participation

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