

United Nations Forum on Forests
Minutes of the Second Meeting of the UNFF11 Bureau (after the Eleventh Session)
8 March 2016 (5:00-8:00 pm) - Tokyo, Japan

Summary of Key Actions/Decisions

- 1. The Secretariat was requested to inform the UNFF11 Bureau on the resu E3.8tf5the**

The Chair of the UNFF11 Bureau welcomed members of the Bureau to the meeting held on the margins of the expert panel on the Strategic Plan of the International Arrangement on Forests. He informed that Mr. Bezerra was not able to attend the meeting. The provisional agenda of the meeting was adopted. The Bureau welcomed the participation of Mr. Thiago Medeiros da Cunha Cavalcanti (Ministry of External Relations of Brazil) to observe the Bureau discussions on behalf of Mr. Bezerra.

1. Update on the action by the ECOSOC on the letter of the UNFF11 Chair to the ECOSOC President

The Bureau invited the Secretariat to provide update on the latest developments in regard to the ECOSOC action on the letter of the UNFF11 Chair to the ECOSOC President.

The Secretariat informed that the Secretary of the Forum was asked to attend this meeting and to brief the Bureau on this matter but, he was unable to join this Bureau meeting due to conflict of schedule with other meetings. The Secretariat informed, however, that based on the non-official information, ECOSOC was planning to take action on a draft decision on Monday 14 March 2016. According to this draft, the Council was authorizing the Forum to convene the 1st meeting of UNFF12 on 25 April to elect its Bureau. This information was also confirmed by some April to to t

The Bureau considered the draft provisional organization of work for AHEG1 and proposed a number of suggestions, including on the order of the elements for substantive discussion. The Bureau also highlighted the importance of incorporating all elements of the IAF strategic plan, as stated in paragraph 39 of the ECOSOC resolution 2015/33, in the programme of work. The Bureau further considered possible options for the working modalities of AHEG1 to ensure sufficient time for discussion and active interaction among experts, including options of holding parallel working groups, modify the regular starting and/or finishing time of morning and afternoon sessions, as well as possible evening sessions. It was decided that the Secretariat would consult with the AHEG Co-Chairs and revise the programme of work and circulate it to the Bureau members at a later date.

ii. AHEG1 documentation

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that all official documentation and other relevant documents have been posted on the UNFF website. These include the Provisional Agenda and Annotations, a Note by the Secretariat, submitted views and proposals of Member States and other relevant stakeholders, and a background study on the "Elements for the Preparation of the Strategic Plan 2017-2030". The submitted views and proposals, as well as the study have been posted on the UNFF website before 15 February 2016 pursuant to the decision made at the last meeting of the Bureau.

The Secretariat further briefed that the compilation of views and proposals, as well as a summary of discussions of the expert panel on the Strategic Plan of the International Arrangement on Forests will also be posted to the Forum's website once these documents are prepared. The hard copies of the official documentation, i.e. the Provisional Agenda and Annotations and a Note by the Secretariat will be made available at the AHEG1.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the timely preparation of the AHEG1 documentation and other related documents, and expressed satisfaction on the quality of the information contained in these documents.

iii. Nomination of AHEG Co-Chairs

The Secretariat informed that Mr. Gholam Hossein Dehghani of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr. Hans Hoogeveen of the Netherlands have been nominated to serve as the Co-Chairs for the AHEG, from their respective groups.

iv. Update on the funding for travel support of experts to AHEG1

The Secretariat informed that the travel support will be provided to 37 experts nominated by the eligible countries and Major Groups to participate in the AHEG1. These travel support would be funded through the extrabudgetary funding support from Finland and Japan.

3. Update on the:

i. GA resolution on the UN Forest Instrument

The Secretariat informed that the General Assembly adopted the resolution A/RES/70/199 on 22 December 2015 that extended the timeline of the Global Objectives on Forests to 2030 and

renamed the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests the United Nations forest instrument.

ii. PBIs of the ECOSOC resolution 2015/33

The Secretariat provided updates on the outcome of GA consideration of the programme budget implications (PBIs) of the ECOSOC resolution 2015/33. Based on the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly approved four additional posts to deliver the new mandate for the duration of the mandate of the IAF. The recruitment process of these additional posts is underway. It was added that a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) sponsored by Japan was also expected to join the Secretariat by April 2016.

The Bureau recorded its thanks to the Secretariat for its efforts in closely following up on this matter.

iii. Activities of the GFFFN

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the activities of the GFFFN, noting that while the GFFFN will need voluntary contributions for its full operation, the Secretariat secured over USD400.000

International Day of Forests. A joint celebration of the International Day of Forests and World Water Day entitled “Forests and Water | Sustain Life and Livelihoods” will be held on Monday, 21 March 2016 from 10:00 to 13:00 at UNHQ in New York. Featured speakers include: Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; H.E. Oh Joo-h, President of