





Ambassador Maniratanga, Chair of the UNFF19 Bureau opened the meeting, welcomed the Bureau members, the UNFF Secretariat and the UNFF Secretary to the first meeting of UNFF19 Bureau, and emphasized the importance of UNFF19, and the need for its timely and sound preparations. He introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting, which was adopted by the Bureau.

The Chair expressed his satisfaction about the deliberations, discussions and outcome of UNFF18, and thanked all members of the Bureau, UNFF Secretariat and UNFF Secretary team for their support in the smooth running of UNFF18. All Bureau members also spoke and shared the same sentiments about the success of UNFF18, and the diversity of actors involved in parts of the session, in particular, the panels. The Director of the UNFF Secretariat reflected on the rich discussions resulting from the diversity of speakers and stakeholders present. She explained that the Secretariat will hold an all-staff meeting on the following Monday to reflect on the things which can be further improved during the next session. She indicated that while most member states respected the time limits and made interventions on the issues under consideration, there were some instances when some delegations did not focus on the issues under consideration and made long interventions. She invited the Bureau to consider how to mitigate such situations when chairing respective meetings.

In response to the observation by Mr. Jaroslav Kubista that one member state was unable to locate the issued version of the draft decision on dates and venues for UNFF19, the Secretary of the Forum informed that both draft decisions about the date and venue of UNFF19, and its provisional agenda, were circulated through the Bureau to the respective regional groups, e-deleGATE to all Permanent Missions, as well as the UNFF-NFPs well in advance of UNFF18. The documents were also linked in the Journal programme for the Forum's meeting and could be accessed in the six languages through the UN's online

bodies. He added that the Council has not taken any decision to turn the regular session of its functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies into a hybrid format, and on the contrary, these meetings were being held fully in-person.

UNFF Secretariat informed that the main items for consideration by UNFF19 are the IAF midterm review, the quadrennial programme of work of UNFF for 2025-2028, and the convening of the high-level segment. In response to a query from Ms. Zamora, and Mr. Kubista, the secretariat also informed that the important issues related to other routine agenda items of the UNFF sessions such as monitoring, assessment and reporting, as well as means of implementation for sustainable forest management will be addressed in the context of the IAF midterm review, consideration of proposals in the Chair's summary of UNFF18, and in the context of other items in the agenda of UNFF19. Mr. Belen also suggested that UNFF19 to include a panel with the participation of credible TV broadcasters and journalists from different parts of the world, and exhibitions and fairs by the private sector, governments, and non-governmental organizations. He also suggested the Bureau, or the Secretariat to take an initiative to put greater emphasis on dryland forestry and industrial plantations.

UNFF Secretariat reminded that UNFF19 is a policy session and is expected to adopt an omnibus resolution to include, inter alia, the decision of the Forum on the outcomes of the IAF midterm review, including on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2024, the result of consideration of UNFF19.

modality and organizational issues of UNFF18 in December 2022. In this respect, the Bureau agreed with the suggestion of the UNFF Secretariat that a letter by the UNFF19 Chair to be sent to Members of the Forum and UNFF partners on the modality of UNFF19, its outcomes, and the vision and the decisions of the Bureau regarding UNFF19 high level segment as soon as possible.

