

**United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)  
Bureau of the Eighth Session (UNFF8 Bureau)**

**Minutes of the sixth meeting  
Sunday, 9 November 2008, Vienna, Austria**

**Participation**

**Bureau members:** Dr. Boen M. Purnama, Mr. Arvids Ozols, Mr. Abdellah Benmellouk, Dr. Modesto Fernandez, and Dr. Glen Kile.

**UNFF Secretariat:** Ms. Jan McAlpine, Mr. Peter Csoka, Dr. Mahendra Joshi and Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchill.

**Others:** Dr. Teguh Rahardja (Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia) and Ms. Kartika Handaruningrum (Indonesian Mission in New York)

**Opening**

The Bureau of the UNFF8 convened its sixth meeting in Vienna, Austria. The Bureau reviewed the final preparations for the Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework, to be held from next day (10 November).

The Bureau warmly welcomed Ms. Jan L. McAlpine as the Director of the UNFF Secretariat.

**Preparations for the AHEG meeting**

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the final preparations including on the logistics, documentation and participation (including Major Groups and other participants).

One large conference room with country names has been arranged for the meeting. In addition, office rooms for the Chairman, Director and Secretariat staff have been set up at the UNOV for the week, as well as two meeting rooms with 20 seats each.

All documents (official and background) were made available in advance. The documents included the provisional agenda and the Note by the Secretariat and the executive summary (14 pages) of the background document - mapping exercise of the Advisory Group on Finance (AGF) by Dr. Markku Simula - have been translated in all official languages. The Bureau noted with satisfaction the quality and timely release of documents. It also expressed appreciation for the contribution of the Advisory Group on Finance (AGF) in the preparation of documents, including the translation of executive summary of the AGF document by the World Bank. The full report (over 90 pages) of the said document has been posted on the UNFF website.

It was proposed that the Bureau Chair and Secretariat would meet with the representatives of the major group organizations on Monday and later in the week to interact with them on the progress of the meeting.

### **Organization of Work**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the participation of Mr. Thomas Stelzer, ASG of DESA, at the opening session of AHEG meeting. Thus, he would open the meeting and deliver a welcome address to the participants. After that, Ms. McAlpine will conduct the election of officers where she would propose the Bureau as a whole to be elected as the bureau of the AHEG. Once the election is completed, Dr. Purnama, as the Chair of the UNFF8 Bureau would assume the chairmanship of the AHEG.

It was also agreed that Dr. Purnama would chair the opening and closing sessions of the AHEG meeting (Monday and Friday). The meeting for the rest of the week would be co-chaired by two teams of Vice-Chairmen. Accordingly, the afternoon session of 10 November would be co-chaired by Mr. Arvids Ozols and Mr. Abdellah Benmellouk. On Tuesday, 11 November, the morning session would be chaired by the same team (Mr. Ozols and Mr. Benmellouk) and afternoon session by Dr. Glen Kile and Dr. Modesto Fernandez. This team would chair the next morning session and the rotation would continue in that fashion.

The Bureau reviewed the latest version of the Organization of Work. It was agreed that the co-sponsors of the CLI Suriname on financing for SFM would make a presentation on the outcome of the meeting in the morning session. This would be followed by a panel discussion on the AGF studies, composed of the lead consultant Dr. Simula, Mr. Marco Boscolo (FAO), Mr. Patrick Verkooijen (the World Bank), Ms. Maria Sanz-Sanchez (the UNFCCC Secretariat) and Mr. Amha bin Buang (ITTO). If needed the panel discussion would continue to the first hour of the afternoon session (3:00 to 4:00 pm). After the panel discussion, Director would introduce the Note by the Secretariat.

The Bureau further reviewed the questions around which AHEG discussion would focus on each day. It was agreed that the Secretariat would revise a set of questions, which the Co-chairs would present to the participants for consideration in their deliberations. This was planned to provide a structure and direction to achieve the mandated outcome from the AHEG at the end of the week.

The Bureau would meet every evening after the conclusion of AHEG meeting to take stock of the day and plan for the next day. If and when needed, additional meetings could be held.

### **Other matters**

The Bureau was informed about the briefing conducted by Mr. Benmellouk, as per the decision of the Bureau, to the delegations in New York on Monday, 27 October. The Bureau's briefing was well attended by delegations, indicating the significance the Member States put to the UNFF and the issue under consideration.