

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

**Minutes of the Fourth meeting**

10 September (8:00 – 10:00 PM) and 12 September (9:00 – 10:00 AM) during the  
Suriname CLI meeting, 8-12 September 2008

Paramaribo, Suriname

**Participation**

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

**UNFF Secretariat:** Mr. Peter Csoka and Dr. Mahendra Joshi.

**Others:** Dr. Teguh Rahardja, Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia.

**Opening**

The Bureau of the UNFF8 convened its fourth meeting in Paramaribo, Suriname - in two parts - in conjunction with the Country-Led Initiative (CLI) on financing sustainable forest management. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Boen Purnama, Chairman. He informed members that due to Hurricane Ike, Dr. Modesto Fernandez had to cancel his travel to Suriname at the last minutes. The Bureau expressed its concern and wished for the well-being of Dr. Fernandez and his countrymen. Mr. Abdellah Benmellouk had already informed about his inability to travel and participate in this meeting.

**1. Adoption of agenda**

The Bureau adopted the agenda for the meeting and focused its discussions on the following matters:

**2. General review of the preparations for the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Finance to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework**

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the latest developments with regard to the preparations for the AHEG. After further consultations with the Bureau members, the dates for the Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting in Vienna, Austria, was finalized for 10-14 November 2008. Note Verbales had been sent to Member States informing them about the dates and venue, and requesting to nominate their expert participants for the meeting. The Secretariat has been receiving nominations of experts.

In addition to the provisional agenda for the AHEG, the Secretariat has prepared an official document as “the Note by the Secretariat” laying out the background and context to set the scene for the experts. It poses a set of questions/issues with an aim to facilitate the work.

The so-called mapping exercise, conducted by the Advisory Group on Finance, through FAO and Dr. Markku Simula, consultant, would also be presented at the meeting.

A presentation of the outcome of the CLI Suriname by its co-sponsors was also anticipated at the AHEG. The Bureau would check with the co-organizers of the CLI during the week to seek their views on providing the input to the AHEG meeting. (Note: A meeting took place between bureau members, Mr. Arvids Ozols and Dr. Glen Kile and co-organizers of the CLI on 5 PM of 12 September. Due to travel complications Dr. Purnama could not participate in the meeting. A summary of the discussion is annexed to the minutes.)

The Bureau advised the Secretariat to develop a draft organization of work to help plan the conduct of the AHEG as well as the expected outcome from the meeting. The Secretariat prepared a preliminary organization of work and shared with the Bureau members present in Suriname. Based on that draft the Bureau discussed the matter further on 12 September. The Secretariat proposed to share the Note with Bureau members and ask their views on the questions presented under “Issues for consideration” Based on the Bureau’s opinion the secretariat would develop a more detailed suggestion for the organization of work, built around those issues for consideration. The Bureau advised the Secretariat to share that draft with Mr. Benmellouk and Dr. Fernandez. All Bureau members would reflect on the draft and share their views and suggestions with other members of the Bureau and the Secretariat.

### **3. General review of the preparations for the eighth session of the UN Forum on Forests**

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the preparations for the UNFF8 session, including on documentation for UNFF8 and national and regional inputs (formats for submitting voluntary information). It was noted that finance issue would be a critical agenda item for UNFF8 but other items; in particular, the three substantive topics under “forests in a changing environment” (climate change, biodiversity and reversing loss of forest cover) would be equally important and pertinent for the session to focus on. The Bureau was of the opinion that due to the strategic timing of UNFF8, the session could provide substantive input to the UNFCCC COP15 on issues related to forests and REDD.

The Secretariat informed that it had requested Member States and regional, sub-regional bodies to provide inputs on their activities in support of the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI) and the Global Objectives on Forests. The Bureau underscored the need of such information to make the Session interactive and conforming to the spirit of the new MYPOW. The Bureau would discuss further on these matters in the coming days.

#### **4. Other matters**

The Bureau was updated on the status of the staffing in the Secretariat. No news on the appointment of the new Director was available at the time of the meeting. The Bureau was informed that a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) from Finland was expected to join the Secretariat soon and the recruitment process for the P4 post redeployed from within DESA started.

The Bureau agreed that another meeting would be beneficial before the AHEG meeting in November. It is suggested that a meeting be held on Sunday, 9 November in Vienna. In addition, the members would communicate to the Secretariat on a possible date to have a brief tele-conference in mid-October to take stock of the preparations for AHEG meeting. The Secretariat would propose a possible date after receiving these communications.

**Summary of discussions between the Bureau members and the co-organizers of the CLI (12 September 2008, 5 PM)**

- The Bureau thanked the co-organizers for the successful and highly relevant CLI in support of the UNFF.
- All agreed that the CLI had sensitized the countries on the challenges ahead at the AHEG and UNFF8. The information provided and interactive discussions held at the CLI would definitely facilitate the Expert Group meeting's work in developing proposals on a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework. It was noted that the availability of the CLI report to the participants of AHEG in advance of the meeting would be highly desirable and the CLI sponsors indicated this would be the case.
- The UNFF Secretariat informed the co-organizers about the documents prepared for the AHEG (Agenda, Note by the Secretariat, studies of FAO and AGF consultant on the mapping exercise).
- The Secretariat also advised the co-organizers on the process to submit the CLI report to the Secretary-General for its inclusion as an official document of UNFF8.
- The Bureau and Secretariat suggested the co-organizers to give consideration as to how best to present the CLI outcome at the AHEG.
- In response to the request by delegates in New York during the briefing of 28 August on CLI, the CLI co-organizers would soon arrange a briefing in New York to brief the 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee members of the General Assembly on the outcome of the CLI. This would be coordinated by the Permanent Mission of Suriname.
- The co-organizers expressed their appreciation to the support received from the Bureau and the Secretariat for the CLI.