

United Nations Forum on Forests
Draft Minutes of the Third Meeting of UNFF19 Bureau
29 February 2024, 11:00am to 1:00pm NY time
Virtual

Participation

Bureau Members: Ambassador Zéphyrin Maniratanga (Burundi), Ms. Leticia Zamora Zumbado (Costa Rica), Mr. Jaroslav Kubista (Czechia), Mr. Javad Momeni (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Ismail Belen (Türkiye)

UNFF Secretariat: Ms. Juliette Biao, Mr. Minoru Takada, Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, Ms. Mita Sen, Ms. Njeri Kariuki, Mr. Ryo Nakamura, Ms. Yan Lang, Ms. Nadine Souto

UNFF Secretary, Mr. Ziad Mahmassani; **UNFF Deputy Secretary,** Ms. Jori Joergensen

Key Actions/Decisions

1. The Bureau decided to continue using the same modalities during the third round of informal consultations on the preparations of the zero draft UNFF19 outcomes at the end of March, with no negotiation, or projection of the text.
2. The provisional organization of work of UNFF19, and a letter from the Chair on the modalities of UNFF19 and its HLS, and the implications of austerity measures due to the UN liquidity crisis will be sent to UNFF members and partners by 6 March 2024.
3. UNFF19 Chair will organize a briefing for all Permanent Missions in NY regarding the latest logistical and organizational preparations for UNFF19 in late March/early April.

Provisional Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the provisional agenda
- 2- Preparations for UNFF19
 - a. Review of the progress in the informal consultations on the UNFF19 zero draft outcomes, and the next steps
 - b. Finalization of the provisional organization of work of UNFF19, including the programme, and modalities for the High-Level Segment (HLS), and potential implications of the UN liquidity situation on the programme of UNFF19
 - c. UNFF19 briefing, and logistical information
- 3- Update on the recent and upcoming activities:
 - a. UNFF Bureau's contribution to the HLPF
 - b. IDF 2024
 - c. UNFF Major Group-Led Initiative
 - d. UNFF intended contribution to the Summit of the Future
- 4- Other matters

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda

Ambassador Maniratanga, Chair of the UNFF19 Bureau, opened the third meeting of UNFF19 Bureau and welcomed the Bureau members, and the Secretariat. He introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting, which was adopted by the Bureau.

2. Preparations for UNFF19

a. Review of the progress in the informal consultations on the UNFF19 zero draft outcomes, and the next steps

The Vice-Chairs, Ms. Zamora Zumbado (Costa Rica) and Mr. Kubista (Czechia), in their capacity as co-facilitators of the informal consultations on the zero draft UNFF19 High Level Segment declaration, briefed the Bureau on the conduct of virtual informal consultations ahead of UNFF19. They reflected on the positive engagement of delegations as well as the key concerns raised, including calls for the HLS declaration to reflect a higher level of ambition, and references to politically sensitive subjects such as unilateral coercive measures, conflict, and war. The Bureau thoroughly discussed these issues. On inclusion of references to “conflict and war” and “unilateral coercive measures” in the zero draft outcomes of UNFF19, the Bureau stressed its preference to avoid such references, given the mandate and scope of work of UNFF.

The Bureau also reconfirmed using the same modality of the first and second round of informal consultation for the third and final round of informal consultation on 26-27 March 2024. Consistent with the provisions of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, negotiation of the zero drafts will be held during the in-person UNFF session in May.

b. Finalization of the provisional organization of work of UNFF19, including the programme, and modalities for the High-Level Segment (HLS), and potential implications of the UN liquidity situation on the programme of UNFF19

UNFF Secretary briefed the Bureau on austerity measures related to the UN liquidity crisis, as outlined in the letter of 6 February 2024 of the Chef de Cabinet of the UN Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly. The following measures are of particular relevance:

- The regular meeting hours of 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for meetings with conference services will be strictly applied. Requests for meetings and events taking place in conference rooms before 10 a.m., after 6 p.m. or on weekends can no longer be accommodated.
- No parallel meetings of the same body can be accommodated.
- Lunchtime side events in conference rooms can be accommodated only if they use automatic self-service sound and no physical, technical or structural changes to the conference room are required.

The Bureau carefully examined the implications of these measures and decided on the following modalities for UNFF19, including the HLS, special and side events:

- The time limit for statements and interventions during UNFF19 formal meetings, including the HLS will be three minutes. This time limit will be strictly enforced.
- Due to time constraints, priority will be given to speakers at the Ministerial/Director-General level and above during the HLS.
- Delegations will be invited to express their interest in intervening in the roundtables of the High-Level Segment through the e-Speakers module on the e-deleGATE portal. More information on the opening of the expressions of interest will be communicated later.
- For those participating States and entities organizing side events during UNFF19, given the limitation in the provision of technical facilities, should they require additional services beyond automatic self-servicing in the conference rooms, they may consider holding their side events virtually, or, at another venue outside the United Nations Headquarters.

The Bureau agreed that the revised UNFF19 provisional organization of work with a letter from the UNFF19 Chair outlining the modalities for the session be sent to UNFF members and partners by 6 March 2024.

c. UNFF19 briefing, and logistical information

UNFF Secretariat updated the Bureau on logistical arrangements underway for UNFF19, including processing of requests for travel support for participants. An Information Note for UNFF19 Participants was drafted and would be sent to UNFF-NFPs and Permanent Missions soon. This note contains information on registration, accreditation, access to UNHQ, list of hotels, and other logistical matters.

The Bureau also decided to hold a briefing for Permanent Missions in NY at the end of March 2024 on the latest organizational and logistical arrangements for UNFF19.

3. Update on the recent and upcoming activities

UNFF Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the following activities:

a. UNFF Bureau's contribution to the HLPF

UNFF Secretariat informed that the draft of the Bureau's contribution to HLPF was circulated to Forum members, who provided suggestions for revision of the text. The final revised draft was reviewed by the Bureau and submitted to the ECOSOC President before the deadline of 1 March. This input would be included in the compilation of inputs and posted on the HLPF website.

b. IDF 2024

UNFF Secretariat informed that it had been engaged in mobilizing support from within the UN system and UNFF stakeholders for participation in the International Day of Forests 2024, to be held at UNHQ from 10:00 to 1:00pm on 21 March 2024. An invitation was issued to Bureau members based in NY to attend the event at UNHQ. IDF 2024 would include an opening by high level officials, a technical panel and general discussion with advance inscription for speakers.

c. UNFF Major Group-Led Initiative

UNFF Secretariat informed that it had been organizing the MG-Led Initiative (MGLI) in support of UNFF19 (4-6 March) at the UN office in Nairobi, Kenya. So far, 65 representatives of MGs from UNFF, UNFCCC, HLPF and UNEA have confirmed their participation in this meeting. The objectives of the MGLI are to solidify MG governance structures through a comprehensive approach, elaborate on their roles and responsibilities, and share experiences and lessons learned from other bodies. The outcomes of the MGLI are expected to include the Terms of Reference for the UNFF MG coordination mechanism, and a meeting report, which will be submitted to UNFF19 for the Forum's consideration.

d. UNFF possible contribution to the Summit of the Future

The UNFF Secretariat informed that DESA is providing support to the upcoming Summit of the Future, to be held on 22-23 September 2024. The intergovernmental consultations are ongoing. So far, the work has centered on the creation of task teams.

4. Other matters

UNFF Secretary provided an update on the nominations to the Bureau for UNFF20 and UNFF21 from the Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European Group and Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. A letter was sent on 8 February to regional groups requesting nominations. Nominations from the remaining regional groups were encouraged to be submitted as soon as possible.

The meeting was closed at 1:20pm