

**Economic and Social Council**

Provisional

25 October 2007

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Resumed substantive session of 2007**Provisional summary record of the 49th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 17 October 2007, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Čekuolis (Lithuania)**Contents**Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)(i) United Nations Forum on Forests (*continued*)Social and human rights questions (*continued*)(a) Advancement of women (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

Economic and environmental questions (continued)

(i) United Nations Forum on Forests (continued) (E/2007/42 and Corr.1, E/2007/L.39 and L.41)

1. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) drew attention to the draft decision in document E/2007/L.41, entitled "Support to the Bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests in preparing for its future sessions". It was estimated that implementation of the requests contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft decision would require \$32,000 for the biennium 2008-2009. That amount would provide for members of the Bureau from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate in at least one meeting of the Bureau each year, either in or outside New York. As those resources would be provided from the Trust Fund in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, no financial implications would arise for the regular budget of the United Nations, in particular for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Furthermore, the adoption by the Council of draft decision E/2007/L.41 and of the draft resolution entitled "Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests" contained in the report of the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2007/42), as revised by the proposed amendment (E/2007/L.39), would not entail any additional programme budget requirements.

Proposed amendment to the draft resolution entitled "Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests" contained in the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2007/42) submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Léo Mèrorès (Haiti) on the basis of informal consultations

2. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to adopt the proposed amendment contained in document E/2007/L.39.

3. *It was so decided.*

Draft resolution entitled "Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests" contained in the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2007/42)

4. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution, as amended by document E/2007/L.39.

5. *The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted.*

6. **Mr. Tarragô** (Brazil) said that, while his delegation would not object to the consensus that had emerged in respect of the draft resolution just adopted, it regretted that the political support voiced for the United Nations Forum on Forests had not been translated into the provision of adequate budgetary resources. As the only international body on environmental issues with universal membership, the Forum deserved to be strengthened. His delegation had strongly supported the adoption both of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and of the multi-year programme of work. However, the report of the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests contained financial commitments that could be met only by the allocation of additional technical and human resources.

Draft decision III: Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its seventh session and provisional agenda for its eight session contained in the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2007/42)

7. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision III.

8. *Draft decision III was adopted.*

9. **Mr. Silvestre** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Moldova and Ukraine, reiterated the strong commitment of the European Union to the adoption both of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and of the multi-year programme of work for 2007-2015. Those were significant milestones in the context of international forest policy and cooperation.

10. The European Union welcomed the report of the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2007/42) and the adoption of the draft resolutions contained therein. The request to strengthen the secretariat of the Forum with appropriate human resources should be met using existing resources from within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and must not generate additional programme budget implications for the biennium 2008-2009 or jeopardize existing institutional arrangements and needs in order to preserve the current efficiency of the Forum secretariat.

11. The European Union strongly urged member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to provide adequate secondments to the Forum secretariat as well as substantive support to the Forum. In order for the non-legally binding instrument and the multi-year programme of work to be implemented successfully, all partners and interested stakeholders would need to share their expertise fully and avoid any duplication of effort. The secretariat might also consider holding a special public event to promote awareness of the non-legally binding instrument at the time of its adoption by the General Assembly. Such an event could strengthen political commitments to global forest objectives at all levels.

12. **Mr. Tharyat** (Indonesia) said that his delegation would continue to support the full implementation of the resolutions and decisions just adopted but was concerned by the daunting challenges ahead, particularly the need to provide adequate resources to fund the non-legally binding instrument and the multi-year programme of work.

Draft decision E/2007/L.41: Support to the Bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests in preparing for its future sessions

13. **The President** invited the Council to consider draft decision E/2007/L.41, which had been submitted by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The statement made by the Secretary prior to the adoption of the resolution on the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests also applied to draft decision E/2007/L.41. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

14. *Draft decision E/2007/L.41 was adopted.*

15. **Ms. Ayesha** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the adoption of the draft decision because it was imperative to have the full participation of Bureau members from developing countries and economies in transition in meetings of the Bureau in order to enable them to carry out their functions effectively. She strongly encouraged donor countries to increase their contributions to the Trust Fund in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests and looked forward to fruitful discussions that would help developing countries to achieve sustainable forest management.

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(a) Advancement of women (*continued*) (A/62/38)

16. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to take note of the annual report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as contained in document A/62/38.

17. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at noon.