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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
Third session
Geneva, 3-14 May 1999
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FORUM ON ITS THIRD SESSION

Draft report

Chapter ..

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Intergovernmental Forum on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development held its third session from 3 to 14 May 1999, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1998/216 of 23 July 1998. The Forum held ... meetings (1st to ... meetings).
2. The session was opened by one of the Co-Chairmen, H.E. Mr. Ilkka Ristimäki (Finland).
3. The Forum heard an address via video teleconference from New York by Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.
4. An introductory statement was made by the Director, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
5. At the 2nd meeting, on 6 May 1999, the Forum agreed to invite the Southern African Development Community to participate in the work of its third session, as an intergovernmental organization, with the status of observer.

B. Election of officers

6. At its 1st meeting, on 4 May, the Forum agreed that Ms. Amelia Torres (Peru) would serve as Vice-Chairman at the third session, replacing Ms. Bibiana Vargas Morales (Colombia).

7. The Bureau of the Forum comprised the following officers:

Co-Chairmen: H.E. Mr. Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
H.E. Mr. Ilkka Ristimäki (Finland)
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Yevgeny Kuzmichev (Russian Federation)
Ms. Amelia Torres (Peru)

8. At its 1st meeting, on 3 May, the Forum agreed that, in addition to serving as Vice-Chairman, Ms. Amelia Torres (Peru) would also serve as Rapporteur.

C. Agenda and organization of work

9. At the 1st meeting, on 3 May, following a correction by the Secretary of the Forum, the Forum adopted its provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.17/IFF/1999/1, and approved its organization of work, as corrected and amended. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests:
 - (a) Promoting and facilitating implementation;
 - (b) Monitoring progress in implementation.
3. Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process:
 - (a) Need for financial resources;
 - (b) Trade and environment;
 - (c) Transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management;
 - (d) Issues that need further clarification:
 - (i) Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation;
 - (ii) Traditional forest-related knowledge;
 - (iii) Forest conservation and protected areas;
 - (iv) Forest research;

- (v) Valuation of forest goods and services;
 - (vi) Economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure;
 - (vii) Future supply of and demand for wood and non-wood forest products;
 - (viii) Assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas;
 - (e) Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments.
4. International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
 5. Other matters.
 6. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum.
 7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session.
10. Also at the 1st meeting, the Forum agreed to establish two in-session working groups, each to be chaired by one of the Co-Chairmen.

D. Attendance

11. The session was attended by representatives of .. States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, and secretariats of treaty bodies, as well as observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex ...

E. Documentation

12. The Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on promoting and facilitating implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests: promoting and facilitating implementation (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting and facilitating implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests: monitoring progress in implementation (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: the need for financial resources (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/4);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: trade and environment (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/5);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: issues that need further clarification: underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/7);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: issues that need further clarification: traditional forest-related knowledge (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/8);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: issues that need further clarification: assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/9);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: issues that need further clarification: forest conservation and protected areas (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/10);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: issues that need further clarification: forest research (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/11);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: issues that need further clarification: valuation of forest goods and services (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/12);

- (l) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: issues that need further clarification: economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/13);
- (m) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: issues that need further clarification: future supply of and demand for wood and non-wood forest products (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/14);
- (n) Note by the Secretariat on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/15);
- (o) Report of the Secretary-General on international arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/16);
- (p) Letter dated 2 February 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Austria and Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the report on the International Consultation on Research and Information Systems in Forestry, which was held at Gmunden, Austria, from 7 to 10 September 1998 (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/17);
- (q) Letter dated 9 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Chairman of the International Cooperative Programme on the Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/19);
- (r) Letter dated 16 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final report of the Global Workshop on Addressing the Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, which was held in Costa Rica from 18 to 22 January 1999 (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/18);
- (s) Letter dated 26 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting an executive summary of the report entitled "International forest conservation: protected areas and beyond" (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/20);
- (t) Letter dated 21 April 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Chile, Denmark, India, New Zealand and Portugal to the United Nations

addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Experts Meeting on the role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management, which was held in Santiago, Chile, 6-10 April 1999 (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/21);

(u) Letter dated 23 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Brazil-US International Experts Meeting on Protected Forests Areas, which was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 15 to 19 March 1999 (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/22);

(v) Letter dated 26 April 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica and Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the San José meeting of experts of the Costa Rica-Canada Initiative on forests in support of the programme of work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, which was held in San José, Costa Rica from 22 to 26 February 1999 (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/23);

(w) Letter dated 29 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report entitled "A Study on the global outlook for plantations" (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/24).

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