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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
Third session
Geneva, 9-20 September 1996
Item 8 of the agenda

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PANEL ON ITS THIRD SESSION

Chapter

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development held its third session from 9-20 September 1996, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1996/230. The Panel held ... meetings (1st to ... meetings).
2. The session was opened by one of the Co-Chairmen, Sir Martin Holdgate (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). The other Co-Chairman, Mr. Manuel Rodriguez (Colombia), also made an opening statement.
3. The Director of the Division for Sustainable Development made an introductory statement.

B. Election

4. At the second meeting, on 13 September 1996, the Panel elected, by acclamation, Mr. M.F. Ahmed (India) as a Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the third and fourth sessions, to replace Mr. N.R. Krishnan (India), who has retired.

5. The Bureau of the Panel comprised the following:

Co-Chairmen: Sir Martin Holdgate (United Kingdom)
Mr. Manuel Rodriguez (Colombia)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Juste Boussienguet (Gabon)
Mr. M.F. Ahmed (India)
Mr. Anatoliy I. Pisarenko (Russian Federation)

6. As was decided at the second session of the Panel, Mr. Juste Boussienguet (Gabon) also served as Rapporteur at the third session.

C. Agenda and organization of work

7. At its 1st meeting, on 9 September 1996, the Panel adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document E/CN.17/IPF/1996/13 and approved its organization of work. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Implementation of forest-related decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the national and international levels, including an examination of sectoral and cross-sectoral linkages.
3. International cooperation in financial assistance and technology transfer.
4. Scientific research, forest assessment and development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.
5. Trade and environment in relation to forest products and services.
6. International organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments, including appropriate legal mechanisms.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report of the Panel on its third session.

8. Also at the 1st meeting, the Panel agreed to establish two in-session working groups, each one to be chaired by one of the two Co-Chairmen.

D. Attendance

9. 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 non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. [A list of participants will be included in the final report as annex I.]

E. Documentation

10. The Panel had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on programme element I: Progress through national forest and land use plans (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/14);
- (b) Progress report of the Secretary-General on programme element I.2: Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/15);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on programme element I.3: Traditional forest-related knowledge (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/16);
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on programme element I.4: Fragile ecosystems affected by desertification, and the impact of airborne pollution on forests (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/17);
- (e) Report of the Secretary-General on programme element I.5: Needs and requirements of countries with low forest cover (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/18);
- (f) Report of the Secretary-General on programme element II: International cooperation in financial assistance and technology transfer (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/19 and E/CN.17/IPF/1996/CRP.1);
- (g) Report of the Secretary-General on programme element III.I(a): Assessment of the multiple benefits of all types of forests (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/20);
- (h) Report of the Secretary-General on programme element III.2: Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/21);
- (i) Report of the Secretary-General on programme element IV: Trade and environment relating to forest goods and services (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/22 and E/CN.17/IPF/1996/CRP.2);
- (j) Report of the Secretary-General on programme element V.1: International organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/23);
- (k) Report of the Secretary-General on programme element V.2: Contribution to consensus-building towards the further implementation of the forest principles (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/24 and E/CN.17/IPF/1996/CRP.3);
- (l) Report of the Secretary-General on programme element III.1(b): Measuring and capturing forest values: issues, policies and challenges (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/25);
- (m) Letter dated 15 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the

Secretary-General transmitting the final report of the Independent Group of Experts, established under the Swiss-Peruvian Initiative on Forests (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/26);

(n) Note verbale dated 22 August 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Conference on Certification and Labelling of Products from Sustainably Managed Forests, held in Brisbane, Australia, from 26-31 May 1996 (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/27);

(o) Letter dated 28 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Experts' Working Group Meeting on Trade, Labelling of Forest Products and Certification of Sustainable Forest Management, which took place in Bonn, Germany, from 12 to 16 August 1996 (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/28);

(p) Note verbale dated 4 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the summary report of the Intergovernmental Seminar on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, held from 19-22 August 1996 in Helsinki, Finland (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/29).
