

ANNEX 4 - MINUTES INTERIM MEETING 20 OCTOBER 2008

Preparatory meeting for the 50th Session of the ACPWP

FAO, Rome, 20 October 2008

Summary Report

The preparatory meeting for the 50th Session of the Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products was held in FAO, Rome, on 20 October 2008. The meeting was attended by 34 participants including 13 Committee Members from nine different countries (see Annex). Avrim Lazar, Chairman of the ACPWP, opened the meeting, welcomed the participants and thanked them for their continued support of the Committee's activities. Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department, welcomed the members and participants of the meeting on behalf of FAO and invited them to participate in the events of the European Forestry Week, which was taking place from 20 - 24 October 2008.

The provisional agenda was adopted.

The following items were discussed:

1. Presentation “New Strategy of the Forestry Department”

Mr. Douglas Kneeland briefed the participants about the status of the new strategy, which was mandated by COFO and IEE, responding also to the UN and FAO reforms. Concern was raised by participants about whether the new strategy would sufficiently cover the cooperation with the private sector, as it had done in the past, because the paper and wood industry would like to maintain their close collaboration with FAO. Mr. Kneeland confirmed that this was not at risk and that the Forestry Department would continue its work with the private sector, and would reflect this also in the strategy.

2. Presentation “Latest developments on forests and water”

Mr. Thomas Hofer gave a presentation on recent developments on forests and water. Main aspects of his presentation were (a) quality and (b) quantity of water on a global scale, (c) adaptation to climate change and (d) disaster risk mitigation.

The Committee recommended that FAO should continue to work on the water issue in order to disseminate more information based on facts rather than assumptions. It further recommended that FAO should work on the impacts of different land-uses on water (the land-use –water foot print).

3. Presentation “Latest developments on Planted Forests”

Jim Carle reported on outlook scenarios and the latest planted forests assessment (2005). The total area of planted forests has reached 271 million ha (2005) and has the potential to supply 65 percent of the global industrial wood demand. Forest plantations also sequester 1.4 giga tonnes of carbon annually. It is expected that their share of wood supply for industrial processing will increase in the future.

The Committee underlined the importance of this work for the industry and recommended to continue with the data collection and the work on the supply of wood from planted forests. It further recommended that FAO map the use of the voluntary guidelines on planted forests.

4. Presentation “Contribution of the forestry sector to employment and GDP”

Mr. Arvydas Lebedys made a presentation on forest sector employment. Employment in the forestry sector is decreasing globally slowly but steadily, from 15.7 million (1990) to 13.7 million (2006).

The meeting participants mentioned the importance of collecting and presenting socio-economic figures, as well as the need to analyse them from different perspectives: what do they mean for the industry? The meeting recommended that FAO should go on with the monitoring on forest employment, productivity, as well as a cluster perspective showing the multiplier effect.

5. Presentation “The image of the forest industry”

Messrs. Bernard de Galembert and Joachim Lorbach reported on the progress made by the working group established at the 48th session on this subject. The meeting requested FAO, rather than working further on the paper “Public perception of the industry”, to prepare an action plan for the activities to be initiated. The action plan should consider which activities are to be covered by FAO and which by industry. The committee also recommended FAO to add communication elements to documents produced relevant to the committee.

6. Presentation “Information on the Global Bioenergy Partnership”

Ms. Michela Morese from the Global Bioenergy Partnership Secretariat (GBEP) in FAO, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, reported on the activities and objectives of the partnership which aims at promoting bioenergy for sustainable development.

7. Private sector participation in FAO events

Mr. Wulf Killmann informed the meeting about forthcoming events at FAO and invited the members to actively participate through side events and exhibitions etc.

The next COFO will take place from 16-20 March 2009 in Rome. In conjunction with COFO, a world forestry week event will be prepared - another opportunity for the ACPWP to be actively involved.

Concerning climate change issues, Mr. Killmann drew attention to the negotiations to prepare a post 2012 climate agreement. The meeting requested FAO to clearly follow up the process and to directly provide information to the parties, including the ACPWP. Mr. Killmann pointed out that FAO only holds observer status with the UNFCCC and therefore its main role will be to provide technical information to negotiators. He advised the meeting that, in addition to FAO's participation, it will be important that industry provides national negotiators with aspects they want to see brought forward during the negotiation process. The committee recommended that FAO provide technical information and expert guidance on the role of planted forests in climate change mitigation, to climate change negotiators and the general public.

Mr. Olman Serrano informed the meeting about the XIII World Forestry Congress, which will take place 18 – 25 October 2009 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He proposed that ACPWP should take the lead for area 5 “Forest Sector: Development opportunities” and invited the meeting to consider attending this important congress as well as taking part in the exhibition and the side events. The committee agreed to do so with ICFPA and recommended a key note specifically on climate change. It further recommended that the ICFPA participate in the conclusions committee.

8. Next Meetings

The 50th ACPWP meeting is planned to take place in Brazil in the last week of May 2009. The meeting agreed to hold the preparatory meeting for the 51st session of ACPWP during the World Forestry Congress in Argentina.

9. Any other business and closing remarks

There was no other business. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:00 hrs and thanked FAO staff and all other participants for their good work.