

approaches for planning the first meeting of the AHEG, and in this regard mentioned the usefulness of the experiences of the CLIs. The Bureau stressed that such an approach should ensure a real outcome for the process and pave the way for early engagement of Member States in the preparatory work.

b) Brief introduction on the new projects under the UNFF Facilitative Process:

Ms. McAlpine mentioned the secretariat has already started its work under the Facilitative Process with a project entitled: Facilitating Financing for Sustainable Forest Management in SIDS and LFCCs. She mentioned that this project would be finalized and launched in near future. The first component of this project was being funded through UK-DFID and the remaining two components through GEF funding. The discussions then proceeded with short presentations on these projects by the secretariat staffs.

The Bureau Members appreciated the secretariat for being proactive and quick in starting the UNFF Facilitative Process work, and encouraged that such projects would be expanded to cover all categories of countries under the Facilitative Process. The Bureau also stressed that the outcomes of these projects would provide a substantive contribution to the AHEG meeting.

Ms. McAlpine thanked the Bureau for their support and mentioned that the secretariat was willing to do similar work for other categories of countries. However, lack of resources limited the ability to expand the work, and as soon as the resources would be available the substantive work would begin to address the needs of these categories of countries.

2. Ongoing activities of the Secretariat relevant to UNFF9: Projects under the Capacity Development Programme and the UN Development Account

The Bureau invited Ms. McAlpine to provide some background information on the relevant activities of the secretariat. Ms. McAlpine pointed out that the secretariat was able to mobilize new and additional resources from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs this year and channeled these resources towards some key areas of the UNFF multi-year program of work (MYPOW). Following Ms. McAlpine's introduction of the item, the secretariat staffs made presentations on three major activities namely: a) Developing a strategy for promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable forest management and the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI-Forests, tentatively planned in November 2009 in Yokohama), b) Preparatory and coordination meeting for a Multi-Stakeholder Meeting for Enhancing Effectiveness of Major Groups Participation in UNFF (UNFF Major Groups Initiative)- tentatively scheduled in December 2009- Copenhagen and c) Strengthening National Reporting in Support of the Implementation of the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests

The Bureau commended the secretariat for its proactive approach in leveraging resources for issues that were closely matched with the MYPOW. The Bureau, especially highlighted the benefits of capacity building on national reporting for developing countries, and thanked the secretariat for its initiatives. The Bureau emphasized on the importance of sharing the experience among different regions on "reporting exercise", and on the provision of French translation in those meetings.

Ms. McAlpine thanked the Bureau for its valuable support and encouragement. She mentioned that lack of resources was the main constraint for not having the translation services in French.

She also informed the Members of the Bureau that a workshop for sharing the experience among regions was already planned as a part of activity 2c.

3. Preparations for the Ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests:

b) UNFFS at the XIII World Forestry Congress

Ms. McAlpine briefed the Bureau on recent developments in regard to recruitments of new staffs for the secretariat. She pointed out that 75% of the administrative budget for the secretariat staffs was born from extra budgetary resources and the Trust Fund. She encouraged the Bureau Members to take an active role in reaching out donor countries and mobilize resources to support the work of the secretariat and in particular its administrative costs. The Bureau commended the quality work done by the secretariat and expressed its readiness to convey this message to donor countries. In this context, [the Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare a draft letter to be sent by the Chair of the UNFF9 Bureau to donor countries, after consideration by the Bureau Members.](#)

The Bureau received a short explanation on the activities of the secretariat during the XIII World Forestry Congress.

Closing of the meeting

Mr. Ozols thanked the Bureau members and the Secretariat for their active participation in the meeting. He then adjourned the meeting.