Delegates met in parallel working groups throughout the day and into the evening to negotiate draft decisions on the Multi-year programme of work (MYPOW), the Plan of action (PoA) and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). A contact group met in the evening to discuss expert groups.

**WORKING GROUP 1**

**MYPW: High-level Segments:** Delegates agreed to text deciding that, to demonstrate political leadership and commitment and to provide guidance, ministerial segments will be held at UNFF-2 and UNFF-5. Delegates proposed amendments to a paragraph deciding that, inter alia, “a” (US) focus of the first ministerial segment at UNFF-2 will be to “endorse” (EU) the PoA, “adopted at UNFF-1” (US and EU) as a contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Canada noted that adoption of the PoA at UNFF-1 remains pending, and that, in any case, the PoA may need refining at UNFF-2. The G-77/China preferred that adopting the PoA be “the” focus. New Zealand supported, and the G-77/China and Canada opposed, US-proposed text deciding that the first ministerial segment would provide an opportunity to make a high-level commitment to country goals and strategies for implementing the proposals for action.

**Ad Hoc Expert Groups:** On financial implications of expert groups, Chair Øistad said that once groups are decided, the Budget Division would determine the financial implications. Delegates agreed to refer a paragraph from ECOSOC resolution 2000/35 on expert groups convening for scientific and technical advice and considering mechanisms and strategies for the finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs). Delegates agreed to language on convening ad hoc expert groups, involving developing and developed country experts.

**Finance and Transfer of ESTs:** The US preferred “technology transfer” and opposed a G-77/China proposal to add trade to this group. The EU proposed establishing this group at UNFF-2, with submission of a report on technology transfer at UNFF-3, and on finance at UNFF-4. The G-77/China stressed concluding work by UNFF-2 to guide implementation of the PoA.

**Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR):** The EU, New Zealand, Canada, the US and Switzerland proposed establishing this group at UNFF-1 and reporting at UNFF-2. The G-77/China proposed reporting at UNFF-4.

**Multi-stakeholder Dialogues:** The G-77/China, supported by the EU and Canada, suggested renaming this section “Involvement of major groups,” while the US preferred “Transparent and participatory processes.” Regarding an EU-proposed paragraph on participation of all major groups, as defined in Agenda 21, the G-77/China questioned the use of “all.” Australia and the EU suggested “involvement” and Australia proposed language noting the value of input from major groups associated with forest management at national, regional and global levels. Delegates agreed to text noting the value of multi-stakeholder dialogues in furthering the UNFF’s purpose and objectives at national, regional and global levels, in particular the implementation of SFM. The EU proposed importing text from the “Cross-cutting issues” section on discussing and ensuring major groups’ participation at each session, and proposed adding text on building upon transparent and participatory practices established by the CSD, IFF and IPF. Some delegates preferred participation be “facilitated,” and the G-77/China asked how participation of groups would be ensured.

Delegates agreed that multi-stakeholder dialogues will be held at each session and inviting relevant stakeholders to contribute to discussion in each session, including, inter alia, case study experiences. The G-77/China recommended that the dialogues be based on CSD practice. The EU preferred “based on the experience from the CSD.” The US requested brackets around the CSD reference.

Regarding US-proposed text on facilitating integration of multi-stakeholder participation at the national level and in the UNFF, the EU and G-77/China said the former is the task of governments. The US agreed to the Chair’s proposal to add, in brackets, “including at the national level” to the paragraph on transparent and participatory approaches.

**Developing Synergies and Coordination:** Delegates changed the title to “Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination,” as proposed by the US. New Zealand and the US proposed deleting G-77/China-proposed text on strengthening synergies and coordination in policy development and implementation of forest-related activities. On strengthening synergies with various organizations and processes, the EU recommended adding the UN Financing for Development process. The US, supported by the G-77/China and NEW...
Delegates then negotiated compilation text on the PoA. Delegates also adopted text on approaches to facilitate technology transfer “to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition.” Regarding text on the importance of governance and an enabling environment for SFM, the US proposed, and others accepted, “good” instead of “effective” governance. Delegates accepted a G-77/CHINA-proposed paragraph recognizing the responsibility of countries for identifying priority actions at the national level.

CONTACT GROUP

During the contact group, facilitated by Rob Rawson (Australia), delegates discussed, *inter alia*: the relationship between country-led initiatives and expert groups; whether expert groups would be open-ended; and if the budget should be determined before or after deciding on expert groups. Delegates began discussing the proposed expert groups, and devoted the majority of time to discussing trade. There was disagreement over whether trade should be discussed in an expert group. Developing countries asserted that trade is critical for implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and SFM. One country noted that trade is also important for developed countries. One group of countries said that they were open to discussing trade but needed time for consultations. Delegates briefly discussed the expert group on a legal framework, but reached no agreement on when to establish it or whether a proposal should be submitted to the UNFF. Some felt that establishing it at UNFF-4 would not allow adequate time for discussion, while others felt that an overall review of the UNFF’s success is necessary before its establishment.

IN THE CORRIDORS

The diplomatic tone of working group negotiations contrasted with widespread despair in the corridors. Many expressed dismay at the lack of specific measures in the PoA, and some felt that one delegation is progressively stripping the UNFF of policy content. Some noted that it was indicative that more and more NGOs were leaving the session, apparently lacking interest in the discussions, which they view as inconsequential. Many remain confused about the relationship between the MYPOW and PoA, and some expressed anxiety that, as the end of the session nears, many major issues remain unresolved.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY

PLENARY: Delegates will meet in Plenary in Conference Room 1 from 10:00-11:00 am. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, will address the Plenary.

WORKING GROUP 1: Working Group 1 will meet in Conference Room 1 at 11:00 am and in afternoon and evening sessions to negotiate the revised draft decision on the MYPOW.

WORKING GROUP 2: Working Group 2 will convene in Conference Room 5 at 11:00 am and in afternoon and evening sessions to negotiate the PoA draft decision.