

Second Stakeholder meeting on the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy (UNECE Timber Committee/FAO), Geneva, Switzerland – 26th of March 2012

IFSA Participant : Juliette Mouche (President)

Brief introduction of the event

After the first Stakeholder meeting organized in Antalya (attended by an IFSA delegation), this second meeting was organized and called: “What priorities for the Forest Sector in the transition towards a Green Economy?”

Organized by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber section, jointly with UNEP, the aim of this meeting was to present the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy initiated by the joint section and to discuss amongst the different stakeholders invited the following questions:

- What are the priorities to make the forest sector greener and better contributing to a Green Economy?
- Who should implement those actions?

The participants were split (according to their field of competence and interest) in thematic working groups in order to answer those questions:

1. Sustainable production and consumption of forest products
2. The low-carbon forest sector
3. Decent green jobs in the forest sector
4. Valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services
5. Monitoring and governance of the forest sector

A wrap up session was organized and the possibility to comment on other groups' choices was given to participants.

To close the meeting, the road map from Orman 2011 (Joint TC/EFC meeting in Turkey) to Metsä 2013 (Joint TC/EFC meeting in Finland) through the 2012 UNCSD Conference in Brazil was explained.

What was done by IFSA in the event

I had been invited to join this Stakeholder Meeting by a member of the Timber Committee when asking me to give a speech in the name of the students for the UNECE/FAO at the 2012 UNCSD conference regarding green economy.

My attendance to this meeting was also a way to gather some material for the speech about “Forestry Education in the shift towards green economy” I was preparing for the conference organized by the LC Eberswalde on the “ Contribution of forests in a green economy and the youth position”.

The meeting enabled me to network a lot but most important to advocate for the inclusion of educational matters in the working plan as an inevitable way to operate the change towards green economy.

Having read the action plan and talked with different stakeholders at the meeting I chose to join the 5th group on monitoring and governance in the forest sector, which tackled matters linked to adding “forests and green economy” to curricula , communication about green economy and the link with other sectors.

I was moreover able to exchange with a member of the Timber Committee about the flaws in forestry education and curricula regarding the shift towards green economy.

Unfortunately, because of funding challenges I wasn't able to give a speech at the 2012 UNCSD conference but I was able to give the students' insight on green economy at the Eberswalde conference thanks to Tolulope Daramola as an outcome of attending the UNECE/FAO stakeholder meeting (speech following this report).

Comments and suggestions for future IFSA participation at the event

Once again, the involvement of IFSA in these matters, especially as green economy is becoming such a central topic in our societies, should be continued as much as possible.

As these sessions are organized by various important actors of the global forestry sphere it is also very important to be present and always show students wish to be involved.

It is a great opportunity to meet more casually with people with high responsibilities and to also meet IFSA Alumni now working in such organizations.