Offer to accommodate the headquarters of the Secretariat of the European Forest Convention in Bonn

Enclosure: - 1 -

Dear Mr. Heino,

As already announced at the INC 2 and INC 3, the Federal Republic of Germany has the honour of hereby submitting an offer to accommodate the Secretariat of the European Forest Convention in Bonn.

I would be grateful if this offer could be made accessible to all the negotiating partners in good time prior to resuming the third round of negotiations in St. Petersburg.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration

Clemens Neumann
Bonn as seat  
of the Secretariat of the European Forest Convention

Offer by the Government of the  
Federal Republic of Germany

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany offers to accommodate the seat of the Secretariat of the European Forest Convention in Bonn and to support its work under the following conditions:

I. Reasons

Germany is aware of its role as a host for international organizations in Bonn. The Federal Government's declared aim is to expand Bonn as an attractive UN location. Moreover, Germany intends to promote sustainable forest management on a global scale. Germany is actively involved in all the important global initiatives to conserve forests and is among the largest donors for forest-related projects. The promotion of synergies and international, regional and cross-border cooperation play an important role in this regard. This is why Germany is applying for the seat of the Secretariat of the European Forest Convention to be established in Bonn.

Five of the Federal Government's 14 ministries have their main headquarters in Bonn. These include the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (which is responsible for forestry), the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. What is more, several international and UN organizations including the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) are headquartered in Bonn. Forest policy issues are closely
linked with the policy fields of environment, biodiversity and climate, thereby making Bonn an extremely suitable location for the Secretariat of the European Forest Convention.

II. Services provided by Germany if Bonn is chosen

1) Germany intends to provide the following services for a Secretariat of the European Forest Convention, covering the Secretariat's staffing of up to 5 persons and lasting for the first 10 years after establishing the Secretariat:

- Initial setting-up of the office
  Germany takes care of the initial setting-up of the office.

- Rent-free office space and running costs of the facility
  - Germany provides appropriate rent-free office space for the final Secretariat once the Convention has been put into force.
  - Germany bears the office's running costs (surveillance, cleaning, telecommunication, material) up to EUR 10,000 per year.

- Conferences of the Parties
  The Federal Government bears the costs for the Conferences of the Parties - which are held at least every two years - up to EUR 50,000 per conference.

If necessary, Germany provides appropriate office space for the preliminary Secretariat as of 2014. It is assumed that this will apply for up to two persons.

2) Furthermore, Germany intends to provide the following additional services for the duration of the Secretariat's establishment in Germany:

- Immunities and privileges
  In the event of the Secretariat being established within a UN organization - as is envisaged within the foundation agreement - the Federal Government will grant immunities and privileges in accordance with the immunities and privileges granted within the respective UN organization. If the Secretariat is not established within a UN organization
but within another organization that is subject to international law, the Federal Government will grant the Secretariat immunities and privileges appropriate to the effective execution of its functions. As far as tax and customs privileges are concerned, the Federal Government will grant privileges within the framework that is binding for all the Parties of the Convention and which the Parties have agreed upon.

- **Access to the German labour market**

  The Federal Government provides family members and members of the Secretariat with access to the German labour market. They will not need a work permit to work.

- **Additional services**

  The Federal Government supports the Secretariat in searching for qualified and suitable Secretariat staff.

### III. Information on Bonn

As the former seat of government, Bonn is a city with efficient administrative structures and international experience. Qualified staff can be recruited on the ground.

**Transport & travel**

Bonn's sophisticated infrastructure - both, local and regional - meets all the needs of globally active, globally travelling organizations. It includes a dense highway network, rail links, and flight connections to all key destinations. New York, Nairobi, or Delhi can all be reached within 7.5 hours from the neighboring airports of Düsseldorf (60 minutes by train or car) and Frankfurt (90 minutes by car/38 minutes by ICE high-speed train from Siegburg/Bonn ICE station). Most European cities are no more than an hour's flight away. The highway journey to Brussels is only about 2 to 3 hours.

**Education and university**

Bonn is a university city. 150,000 students and 15,000 scientists live in the cities of Bonn, Cologne and Aachen, and the region is home to more than 50 science and research institutions.

Bonn is the beating heart of an attractive region of science, research, and education. Its large international university and six universities of applied sciences provide young talent with qualifications in economics and the sciences. Many foreign students make use of the excellent opportunities on offer - at the University of Bonn alone, one in every ten students has a for-
eign passport. These educational establishments have close links with renowned applied re-
search institutions and technology companies. This is supplemented by effective interdiscipli-
nary cooperation within networks and with the economy, UN institutions, and the cultural 
sector. All of this ensures that the region offers first-class opportunities for collaboration, ca-
reers, and training.

Cosmopolitan culture
Bonn has a diverse and exciting cultural landscape. Of course, the city's most famous former 
resident is known all over the globe: Ludwig van Beethoven and his works draw fans from all 
over the world to Bonn every autumn for the Beethovenfest. However, this city on the Rhine 
has plenty more to offer guests and inhabitants: open-air concerts by international pop stars in 
a unique setting in the park along the banks of the Rhine, an international dance festival, ma-
jor operas, modern theatre, galleries, and museums. There is also a vibrant independent cul-
tural scene with music, theater companies (including international offerings such as the Bonn 
Players), cabaret, music bars, and much more. The music scene is in constant motion, and 
there is plenty to discover!

Beautiful countryside and traces of history
Bonn and the surrounding regions are one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe. 
The historic buildings - including Beethoven's birthplace, the Rococo-style old town hall, the 
Electoral Palace (now the university), and the Poppelsdorf Palace - attract as many visitors as 
the wonderful surroundings: for Bonn is the gateway to the romantic Middle Rhine region, a 
landscape which has been inspiring painters, poets, and musicians since the 18th century.

For more information, see the following brochure:
BMELV: Welcome to Bonn. Information about Bonn and its surroundings.

The official website of Bonn:
http://www.bonn-international.org/living-in-bonn.html
Welcome to Bonn

A “forest city” in a forest loving country
Welcome

Bonn and the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection welcome the 2nd session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a legally binding agreement on forests. We are pleased to host this session.

The following pages explain why:
Because people in Germany and North Rhine-Westphalia in particular love their forest

In honour of the International Year of Forests, Germany’s local, state and federal government as well as more than 60 umbrella organisations have joined together to put on more than 5000 events that help people “discover the cultural heritage of the country’s forests”. The State Enterprise for Forestry and Timber North Rhine-Westphalia started the campaign “Mensch Wald!” (humans and forests) to do just that. Forest youth hostels, numerous forest information centres and rangers are turning to tourism and environmental education to offer a wide array of opportunities for people to experience and interact with forests throughout the country.
Because Bonn is both a green city ...

→ Bonn is situated in a region of well-managed, multiple-use forests.
→ It is a green city: over 50% of the urban environment are protected natural areas.
→ Germany’s oldest nature reserve is close by, made up predominantly of forests (established in 1836).
→ It is located in the romantic Rhine Valley, which boasts a multiple-use landscape of vineyards and forests.
Bonn is a large communal forest owner, certified by “Naturland” and the FSC. Large forest areas around Bonn are under the ownership of North Rhine-Westphalia and private owners. The forests have been in use for 2000 years, and today over 75 percent are protected by law. Multi-use, sustainable forest management is in place for the entire area, which includes timber production, recreation, educational activities, as well as measures to improve water quality and those to conserve nature, etc. The city offers educational and recreational facilities such as the “House of the Nature”, with a museum and events in the forests.
Because Bonn is where dialogue happens ...

→ Bonn is a renowned venue for major UN conferences as well as for international conferences addressing global challenges (e.g. climate, desertification, water, renewable energies, forests, biodiversity).

→ It offers excellent conference facilities in unique locations (such as the former plenary hall of the German Parliament).

→ The unique World Conference Center Bonn (WCCB) provides conference space for hosting up to 1275 delegates. Additional conference suites are currently being built.

→ We are working towards sustainable forest management worldwide:
  → Bonn has hosted several forest-related conferences such as “Contributions of Forests to a Green Economy”, a country-led initiative for the UNFF.
Because Bonn is where dialogue happens

... and it prioritises sustainability

Sustainable Bonn:

→ is committed to making an effective contribution to improving the environment and embracing social concerns, both of which are conducive to success of business, events and more;
→ is accommodating the conference sector (49 major companies are among its qualified partners – a number that ensures half of Bonn’s 8000 hotel rooms are always booked);
→ has devised effective ways to compensate for the CO₂ emissions directly and indirectly caused by conferences;
→ hosts virtually paperless conferences, often using RFID technology, for example.
Because Bonn offers a high quality of life ...

→ Bonn offers excellent quality of life at affordable prices (compared to other European cities).
→ The so-called “City of Beethoven” hosts an annual Beethoven festival and a great many other cultural events.
→ There are diverse leisure and sporting facilities throughout the city, especially in September.
→ Germany’s lively, bustling Cologne-Bonn region offers a wide range of cultural activities.
→ It is a well-connected city with an excellent local, regional and international travel infrastructure. There are three international airports within an hour’s drive.
→ Bonn is situated in the heart of Europe: 3.5 hours to Paris, 2 hours to Brussels by high-speed train, and low-cost flights all over Europe.
... and has a rich history and an excellent standing

→ Originally known as *castra Bonnensis*, the city was founded by the Romans over 2000 years ago. It was the residence of the archbishops of Cologne.

→ From 1949 to 1991, Bonn was the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany and the symbol of the most successful democracy in German history.

→ Today it is a hospitable and multicultural city with cosmopolitan flair.

→ Its open-minded citizens include people of 170 different nationalities living together side by side.

→ It is a medium-sized city in the heart of Europe with 318,000 inhabitants.
Because Bonn is the synthesis of research, science, politics, communication and commerce …

→ There are 18 UN organisations based in Bonn that are working towards sustainable development worldwide.
→ The city is an international cluster for sustainability made up of development agencies, science and research institutions, global economic players and around 150 internationally-active NGOs.
→ Bonn is the headquarter of “Deutsche Welle”, one of the world’s leading international radio and television broadcasters with programmes in 30 languages.
... and it is Germany’s city of the United Nations

- UN Climate Secretariat (UNFCCC)
- Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-Spider)
- UN University (UNU-EHS, UNU-IHDP and UNU-ViE)
- UN Volunteers Programme (UNV)
- UNESCO Global Network for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNESCO-UNEVOC)
- As of late IPBES - Secretariat (Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)
Because Bonn hosts Federal Government institutions related to forests ...

- Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV)
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
- German Society for International Cooperation – GIZ (formerly GTZ, DED and InWent), with the German Academy for International Cooperation, now expanding the facilities and capacities in Bonn
- Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) inter alia competent authority in the framework of EU timber regulations and for the national tasks of control and certification related to sustainable production of biomass
... and international forest policy happens here

- Germany is one of the world’s largest donors for forest related development cooperation projects.
- There are many international projects for sustainable forest management.
- There is support for forest related activities and programmes of various international organisations such as UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC, ITTO, WB.
- Voluntary multilateral initiatives are supported.
- State-of-the-art timber fingerprinting methods are being developed for better identification of species and origin.
Because Bonn has a unique cooperation between universities, research and NGOs ...

- University of Bonn, Faculty of Agriculture including Forestry Education and Department of Tropical Crops
- University of Bonn, Faculty of Mathematics and Nature Science including the “Nees Institute” where the lotus effect was discovered, and with an adjoining botanical garden
- “Research-Museum König” – Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC International)
- Tropical Forest Foundation Oro Verde
- Office of the “German City and Commune Union” (DStGB) for Europe, Environment, Building, Agriculture and Forestry
- International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM)
... and North Rhine-Westphalia encourages forest related research and knowledge transfer

- There are 68 universities – including 8 forest or timber-related institutes – in North Rhine-Westphalia, making it a very important research region in Europe.
- The State Enterprise for Forestry and Timber promotes “Arnsberg” as a place for education and knowledge transfer.
- The wood competence centre in Nettersheim promotes and informs about the solid and energy use of wood as part of climate change mitigation.
Because Germany has a vivid forest related science ...

- Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries (vTI), including Institute for World Forestry
- 6 universities with forest research and forest study courses, with partial focus on international forestry and international research projects all over the world
- 5 university of applied forest sciences
- 6 state forest research institutes at the German “Länder” level
- Numerous universities and institutes researching wood, wood processing, building with timber, woody biomass and paper manufacture
... and develops a professional forest management for the future

→ Various German enterprises offer solutions for digital forest management systems (GIS-based) and customer relations management systems for forest services and consulting.

→ Board of trustees for forest operation and forest technologies (KWF), testing and developing new working methods and the field of forestry. Developed data standard for electronic timber data exchange ("ELDAT").

→ There is a cooperative effort for assistance of navigation and logistics in the forestry and timber industries. "NavLog" is a joint venture between forest owners and the timber industry for establishing the data base for navigation in all German forests.

→ German and international enterprises on basis of NavLog and ELDAT now offer software for precise routing and navigation in forests and the management of timber data from forest to sawmill, best evidence for legal harvesting and timber trade.
Because we ensure the Responsibility for German Forests ...

→ Extensive forest acts provide a framework for sustainability and multi-functionality on a national level, while taking into account regional patterns on a federal state level.

→ Long-term experience sustainably managing forests in a vertical structure (e.g. for different types of forest owners and Germany forest administrators).

→ The German forest administration is experienced in taking care of all German forests at different levels:
  → Management of state-owned forests, which constitute one third of Germany's forests.
  → Assistance and support schemes for forests owned by municipalities such as Bonn, which constitute one fifth of Germany's forests.
  → Guidance and support schemes for privately-owned forests, nearly half of German forests
... and initiatives around forests and timber are located in North Rhine-Westphalia

- Forest owners associations at the regional level ensure small scale forest owners access to knowledge and market.
- Special initiatives demonstrate the broad range of activities related to forests and timber and region’s experience in this field:
  - Cluster forest and timber, bringing together forestry, wood processing industries and timber consumers;
  - Urban forestry initiative in the Ruhr region;
  - Recultivation of former industrial extraction areas with forests.
Despite historical meanders, utilisation of forests in Germany, has been shaping them for centuries – and in the case of the Bonn region, for even two thousand years. This has created productive, multifunctional, to a great extent close-to-nature forests, as well as national parks such as the Eifel National Park near Bonn.

Our experience in sustainable and multifunctional management of forests is a valuable tradition we aim to share.