
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe

First session

Vienna, 27 February 2012 – 2 March 2012

Agenda item 4

Note by the Bureau

Introductory note to the “Non-Paper on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe”

1. The “Non-Paper on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe” was drawn up following the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Warsaw in 2007 as a technical document.
2. According to paragraph 18 of the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe (the Oslo Mandate), adopted on 14 - 16 June 2011 by the Signatories of FOREST EUROPE, the representatives of the Signatories decided to take further international action: by drawing up a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe and by establishing an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop a legally binding agreement.
3. According to paragraph 23 of the Oslo Mandate, the work of this Committee should be based on existing FOREST EUROPE resolutions and declarations and other international commitments relating to forests, taking into account the Non-Paper.
4. The intention is to set the stage for an open and inclusive discussion on possible elements of this legally binding agreement. The Committee is expected to provide guidance on the basic structure, main components and content for drawing up the first draft text, including by using the attached Non-Paper.
