

Notification on obtaining status of an observer to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forest in Europe

1. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was established in the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference on the Protection on Forests in Europe held in Oslo 14 to 16 June 2011 with the mandate to develop a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.
2. The First Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe was held in Vienna on 27 February - 2 March 2012. The Second Session of the Committee was held on 3-7 September, 2012 at the "Deutsche Welle" building, Bonn, Germany. The Third Session of the Committee was held in Antalya, Turkey, on 28 January – 1 February 2013 and its resumed session was held in Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation, on 3-5 April 2013. The Fourth Session of the Committee will be held in Warsaw, Poland, on 10-14 June 2013.
3. In paragraph 26, the FOREST EUROPE signatories invited FOREST EUROPE observer States, agencies and organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to participate in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure (Annex 1 to the Oslo Ministerial Mandate to Negotiate a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe).
4. The Rules of Procedure provide that any State not a signatory to FOREST EUROPE may be represented at the Committee as an observer. Any government wishing to participate to the activity of the Committee shall inform the INC-Forests Secretariat at its earliest convenience (see the email address below).
5. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure (Rule 11.) any body or agency qualified in matters relevant to this agreement which is either:
 - a. an international agency or body, either governmental or non-governmental, or a national governmental agency or body; or
 - b. a national non-governmental agency or body which has been approved for this purpose by the State in which it is located;
 - c. and which has informed the Secretariat of its desire to be represented at the Committee by observers, shall be permitted to be so represented unless one-third of the Representatives present and voting object.

Any agency or body meeting the above mentioned requirements shall submit its request for the status of observer at your earliest convenience to:

FOREST EUROPE
Liaison Unit Madrid
C/ Modesto Lafuente, 18
Bajo C, 28010 – Madrid, Spain
INC-Forests@foresteurope.org

For more information about the organization of the fourth session of the Committee please visit: www.forestnegotiations.org