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

Bureau Meeting

18 July 2013 Kiev, Ukraine

Report

1. Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe was held on 18 July 2013 in Kiev.
2. The Chair opened the meeting at 13.00hrs and thanked the representatives of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine for hosting the meeting. Mr. Iaroslav Makarchuk, first deputy Head of State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine welcomed the Bureau on behalf of the host.
3. Mr. Jan Heino (Chair), Mr. Ingwald Gschwandtl (Austria), Mr. Jacques Andrieu (France), Mr. Knut Oistad (Norway), Ms. Alexandra Orekhovich (Russian Federation), Mr. Tomas Krejzar (Czech Republic), Mr. Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz (Poland), Mr. Jose Maria Solano (Spain) and Ms. Lyubov Polyakova (Ukraine) participated in the meeting. Mr. Tamer Otracrier (Turkey) could not attend.
4. The Secretariat was represented by Mr. Hubert Inhaizer (European Forest Institute), Ms. Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs and Mr. Peter Csoka, (FAO) as well as Ms. Edurne Lacalle and Ms. Maria Tourné (Liaison Unit Madrid).

2. Adoption of the agenda

5. The agenda for the meeting, presented in Annex 1 was adopted.

3. Results of the first meeting of INC4

6. Bureau members exchanged views on the outcome of the INC4 Session held in Warsaw. It was noted that substantive progress was made, but agreement on several outstanding issues has yet to be reached.
7. Several Bureau members stressed the importance of a thorough preparation by Parties for a possible consensus to be reached at the resumed session, and to engage in bilateral talks prior to the resumed session.
8. Mr. Solano (Spain) informed that the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference will be postponed. He further informed that Spain is organizing an informal high level meeting on 19 September 2013 in Madrid. He said it is a Spanish initiative solely, neither related to being co-chair of Forest Europe, nor to the INC process. Members stressed that neither the Chair, nor the Bureau should have any role in that meeting.

4. Roadmap to the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference

9. The Bureau reiterated that bilateral work by Parties towards a consensus on LBA is required for the success of the resumed session.
10. Spain indicated its flexibility and readiness to organize the Conference at the beginning or in the spring of 2014.

5. Date and venue of the resumed session of INC4

11. The plenary of INC4 held in Warsaw in June concluded to resume INC4 later this autumn. The views of INC Parties on possible dates of the resumed session were diverse as reflected in the Chair's summary, Corrigendum 1. Paragraph 13, page 3.
12. The Bureau welcomed and gave due consideration to the two offers received for hosting the INC4 resumed session, namely, from the Government of Switzerland (offered during INC4 in Warsaw, confirmed with a letter of 26 June) and from the Government of Belgium (letter of 17 July).
13. The Bureau discussed the importance of choosing an appropriate location and dates for the resumed session. The Bureau underlined the understanding that both parties invited the INC to resume its session on their national territory and requested that this be confirmed.
14. Referring to the sequence of the offers the Bureau decided, that priority should be given to the Swiss one and suggested to clarify with Switzerland the possible date and venue of a resumed session.
15. The Bureau decided tentatively to resume INC4 between 6 and 8 November for a two-day meeting.

6. Other business

16. The Chair referred to the letter of Mr. Alkalaj of 26 June to the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and the Chair of the thematic session on promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums.
17. The Bureau expressed concerns regarding some biased information or conclusion in the communication concerned and agreed to inform respective authorities of the Aarhus Convention as well as its parties for the sake of transparency, on the INC process and decisions taken by the INC Parties.

7. Closure of the meeting

18. The Bureau decided to hold its next meeting tentatively in October, date and venue to be decided, dedicated to the preparations for the resumed session.
19. The Chair closed the meeting at 19.00hrs on 18 July 2013 expressing his gratitude to the participants.
