

Madrid Ministerial Resolution 1

Forest sector in the center of Green Economy

We, as representatives of the Signatories of FOREST EUROPE, at the 7th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, in Madrid on 20-21 October 2015,

- 1.** RECALLING and BUILDING ON the Lisbon Declaration and Resolution 1 “People, Forests and Forestry- Enhancement of Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management”, Vienna Resolution 3 “Preserving and Enhancing the Social and Cultural Dimensions of Sustainable Forest Management in Europe” and the Oslo Ministerial Decision “European Forests 2020”.
- 2.** WELCOMING the global and regional on-going work on green economy and social issues, such as the Rio+20 and post-2015 development agenda including the development of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Decent Work Agenda of the International Labor Organization and the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and TAKING NOTE of the outcomes of the World Forestry Congress “Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future”¹.
- 3.** AWARE that the current status of our forests provides opportunities to create employment and enhance the values of our forests, as well as to substitute more energy demanding construction material by wood and to increase the use of biomass for energy.
- 4.** NOTING that in the context of this ministerial resolution, the term “decent work” involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organise and participate in the decisions that affect their lives, and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men as defined by the International Labor Organization.
- 5.** NOTING that a green economy offers important opportunities to the forest sector, and creates the potential to secure green decent jobs and increase social inclusion.
- 6.** ACKNOWLEDGING that forests are a source of employment with great potential to generate jobs and income opportunities also through new forest products and services as well as to contribute to rural development, human well-being and social equity, enabling also the long term economic viability and competitiveness of forestry and forest-based industries by serving as a sound basis for bioeconomy.

¹ The World Forestry Congress took place on 07-11 September 2015.

As representatives of the Signatories of FOREST EUROPE, we commit ourselves to:

I. Enhancing the role of the sustainable forest management in a green economy

- 7.** Improve the understanding and recognition of the forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits by highlighting the contribution of sustainable forest management to a green economy.
- 8.** Enhance the contribution of sustainable forest management in a bio-based low carbon economy stressing its importance for the development of economic growth and jobs, also for renewable energy supply and material substitution of fossil based products and for environment sustainability and so ensuring a sound basis for bioeconomy.
- 9.** Promote innovation and research by enabling the necessary conditions, such as financing, workforce and skills, and encouraging the development of a culture of innovation as well as the exchange of good practices and know-how.
- 10.** Encourage the use of wood from sustainably managed forests in order to stimulate the transition of societies to a green economy.

II. Enhancing the social aspects of sustainable forest management, including promoting green jobs in forests

- 11.** Promote a forest sector and its related value chain that provides society with increasing opportunities for green jobs, which means that they are decent and connected to the management and use of forests and to environmentally friendly production processes based on goods and services from sustainably managed forests.
- 12.** Adapt education and training systems to changing conditions, technologies and new skills required in the forest sector and beyond.
- 13.** Promote social inclusion and efforts towards gender equality along the whole forest value chain.

III. Incorporating the value of forests ecosystem services in a green economy

- 14.** Recognise the key role of forest ecosystem services in the contribution of forests to a green economy.
- 15.** Promote the exchange of information on methodologies and practices on the valuation of and payments for forest ecosystem services as well as policy approaches to this end.

16. Support the development and possible application of common methodologies for the valuation of forest ecosystem services.
17. Make further efforts to have the full value of forest ecosystem services better reflected in forest related policies and tools inter alia national forest programmes or equivalents, guidelines, market based instruments and payments for ecosystem services.

Pan-European and National Actions

18. Exchange information on policy measures and lessons learnt to promote the use of wood from sustainable sources as a key renewable resource in a green and bio-based economy.
19. Develop guidelines on the promotion of green jobs in the forest sector in the region.
20. Exchange of knowledge and experience in education and training systems and in particular requirements for new skills for forest workers, forest managers and forest owners, in collaboration with the relevant institutions, with a view to identifying possible pan-European recommendations to this end.
21. Explore possibilities for applying gender mainstreaming to the pan-European activities mentioned in paragraphs 19 and 20.
22. Explore ways to use national forest programmes or equivalents to improve occupational health and safety standards and practices; to adapt forestry education, labour skills and qualification of the workforce to the current demands, and to promote job stability, as well as social equity and gender equality in the forest sector.
23. Share information and experience related to science-policy integration to facilitate both policy development and innovation for the long-term competitiveness of the whole forest sector.