

## **UNFF12 - statement by FOREST EUROPE on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

Monitoring and reporting on forests and SFM belong to the regular ongoing activities within FOREST EUROPE. At the Madrid Conference, the ministers responsible for forests expressed their commitment to continue and enhance monitoring and reporting on the state and trends of European forests and progress towards Sustainable Forest Management and to strengthen and further develop tools for SFM.

Mr. Chairman, FOREST EUROPE has been recognized for its role in pioneering the concept of Sustainable Forest Management including the development and endorsement of the Criteria and Indicators. The pan-European C&I set has served as a basis for monitoring and assessment of SFM in the region and for development of national C&I sets in the FOREST EUROPE countries. The first set of indicators was developed in 1998, subsequently reviewed several times to respond to current societal challenges.

One of the most important outputs of the FOREST EUROPE process is the Report on the State of Europe's Forests. The Report is produced in close collaboration with the United Nations organizations ahead of each ministerial conference in order to provide a comprehensive overview of European forests, their status, trends and insights into SFM in Europe. It serves for political discussions and evidence-based decision making on future opportunities and challenges and associated political responses. The report is based on the data collected by national correspondents within the pan-European forest monitoring and reporting in very close cooperation with the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.

Mr. Chairman, at global level, FOREST EUROPE cooperates with forest related processes to enhance the contribution of the pan-European regional forest policy process towards implementation of the broader international commitments through the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, its Global Forest Goals, the forest-related targets of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

With respect to the global reporting as envisaged by the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, FOREST EUROPE fully supports the stated efforts to further streamline and harmonize reporting, reduce reporting burdens and synchronize data collection. We take note the importance of proposed voluntary national reporting to the UNFF by member states using both the new

reporting format and the voluntary national contributions to achieving the GFGs and targets at regular intervals determined by Forum and will seek appropriate measures to facilitate this process by contributing to the regional reporting.

In this context, FOREST EUROPE reaffirms its commitment to contribute to the improvement of quality and harmonization in data collection and reporting through intensive collaboration with UNECE, FAO and to explore new ways of jointly collecting data within FAO's global FRA.

Within its mandate given by the Ministerial Conference, FOREST EUROPE expresses its readiness to contribute to the essential work of the UNFF towards the development of internationally agreed global core set indicators relevant to assessing progress on SFM and the Global Forest Goals and targets and to take measures to better synchronize and streamline data collection and reduce reporting burdens for countries in the pan-European region.