

STATEMENT

on the occasion of the **Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region**

Bratislava, 1 March 2018

FOREST EUROPE, being the pan-European high-level political process tasked to enhance the cooperation on forest policies in Europe under the leadership of ministers, and to secure and promote Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), welcomes organisation of the **Roundtable on Sustainable Management of Forests and Ecosystems** held under **Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region** held on 1 March 2018 in Geneva promoting contribution of SFM to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

FOREST EUROPE has been recognized for its pioneering role in promoting the concept of SFM in Europe and beyond. Seeking the best way to enhance the role of European forests in contributing to environmental, social and economic well-being of society and facing the national and global challenges, the representatives of the Signatories of FOREST EUROPE, at the 6th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in 2011 in Oslo, adopted “Goals and 2020 Targets for European Forests”. These targets are to be achieved by 2020 in support of the shared vision for forests in Europe: *“To shape a future where all European forests are vital, productive and multifunctional. Where forests contribute effectively to sustainable development, through ensuring human well-being a healthy environment and economic development in Europe and across the globe. Where the forests’ unique potential to support a green economy, livelihoods, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, enhancing water quality and combating desertification is realised to the benefit of society”*.

European countries have made commitments to sustainable forest management at both - the global and regional level. The main commitments are the UN “Sustainable Development Goals”, UNFF “Global Forest Goals and Targets” and the FOREST EUROPE “Goals and 2020 Targets for European Forests” (as adopted in Oslo, 2011).

Pan-European reporting for the State of Europe’s forests 2020 will include in its qualitative questionnaire also reporting on “Goals and 2020 Targets for European Forests”. There are many interlinkages between global and regional commitments, reporting on which will take place in 2018-2020. Signatories of FOREST EUROPE are expected to report on similar topics to global and regional processes at almost the same time.

With the aim to decrease national reporting burden for countries in pan-European region, FOREST EUROPE - Liaison Unit Bratislava reiterates its readiness to cooperate with UNECE and FAO to enhance and promote the contribution of European forests towards implementation of the broader international commitments, such as the forest-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and its Global Forest Goals.

Pan-European reporting on qualitative indicators for SFM including reporting on “Goals and 2020 Targets for European Forests” will focus on SFM measures and actions at the national levels, thus providing a broad range of good practices examples for peer learning related to national contributions towards SDGs and Global Forest Goals and Targets.