



WARSAW DECLARATION

Conditions of life on our planet are threatened and call for immediate action. The challenge for all governments and civil society is to protect and sustainably use the Earth's natural resources. European forests have a vital role to play, as they can improve and benefit the quality of life and in particular contribute to climate change mitigation, energy supply and water protection.

1. Being aware of continuous change of climate conditions and the foreseen consequences for forest ecosystems and forestry, and recognising the role of forests, sustainable forest management and forest products in climate change mitigation, as well as the ongoing need for adaptation to climate change.
2. Stressing the importance of using sustainably produced wood as a renewable raw material and renewable energy source and recognising the need to enhance wood supply.
3. Stressing the role of forests for water quality and quantity and for alleviating floods and droughts, as well as noting impacts of climate change on forest and water.
4. Recognising the importance of the full economic value of the multiple services provided by forests and the need to have adequate means and measures to secure these services.
5. Acknowledging that secure property and land tenure rights are a prerequisite for the implementation of sustainable forest management.
6. Emphasizing that sustainable forest management contributes significantly to environmental, economic, social and cultural dimensions of sustainable development and particularly to the achievement of internationally agreed goals, including the Four Global Objectives on Forests agreed by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Millennium Development Goals, the 2010 Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS).

7. Highlighting the importance of providing European input to the international forest policy dialogue.
8. Welcoming the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests and the Multi-year Programme of Work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2007 – 2015 adopted at the Seventh Session of UNFF.
9. Building on the 17 years of achievements and experiences and continuous efforts of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) to strengthen the economic, environmental, social and cultural aspects of forests at all levels.

As representatives of the Signatory States and the European Community, we commit ourselves to:

Benefiting Quality of Life

10. ensure that forests and their sustainable management play an active role in the sustainable development and well being of European society, for both rural and urban areas,
11. ensure that forests and their sustainable management play an active role in combating the negative effects of climate change through both mitigation and adaptation measures,
12. maintain, conserve, restore and enhance the biological diversity of forests, including their genetic resources through sustainable forest management,
13. enhance the use of wood as a renewable raw material and source of energy from sustainably managed forests,
14. ensure that forests and their sustainable management play an active role in maintaining and enhancing water quality and quantity and in mitigating natural hazards, such as floods, droughts, avalanches, land slides as well as in combating soil erosion and desertification,

Tackling Challenges

15. strengthen the competitiveness of the forest sector in order to increase its capacity to benefit the quality of life,
16. raise the profile and awareness of the multiple benefits of forests and forestry as well as the role of the forest sector, within government structures, private sector and with the general public,
17. create enabling conditions in order to increase the mobilisation of wood from sustainably managed forests for all uses,

18. ensure that all wood production, including short rotation and fast growing energy crops, is guided by the principles of sustainability in order to provide for fair competition between sectors,
19. continue to contribute to mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and in this regard to further develop Pan-European guidance for afforestation and reforestation,
20. establish coherence between policies on forest and water resources and coordinate sustainable forest management and integrated water resources management,
21. develop and implement innovative tools for securing water-related services provided by forests, such as payments for ecosystem services (PES)¹ or other measures,
22. further promote national forest programmes or equivalents for cross-sectoral coordination and as a means for coherent implementation of forest related international commitments,
23. further strengthen efforts to promote good governance and forest law enforcement to combat illegal logging and related trade of forest products, inter alia by cooperating on and promoting public procurement policies that demand timber and timber products from legal and sustainable sources,
24. take effective measures to improve understanding between policy makers, practitioners and the scientific community in order to better use scientific knowledge and research results relevant to forests and the forest sector as a sound basis for decision making,
25. strengthen forest and forest sector related employment, education, training and communication and ensure equal opportunities in accessing them,
26. promote research, especially on the role of forests in climate change mitigation, adaptation of forests to climate change as well as the use of wood and biomass, the relationship between forest and water and functioning of forest ecosystems,

Global - Regional Cooperation and Partnerships

27. further promote effective implementation of sustainable forest management at all levels and contribute to the international forest policy dialogue by continued cooperation on forest issues in Europe and by sharing European achievements and experiences with other regions,

¹ payments for ecosystem services (PES)- contractual transactions between buyers and sellers for ecosystem services or land use/management practices likely to secure those services. In: "Recommendations on Payments for ecosystem services in Integrated Water Resources Management", UNECE Water Convention, 2006.

28. further support and cooperate with countries undertaking forest sector reform, particularly those countries with economies in transition to fully incorporate the principles of sustainable forest management in their forest sectors,
29. contribute to the achievement of the Four Global Objectives on Forests as well as the implementation of the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests and the Multi-year Programme of Work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2007 – 2015,
30. develop, in cooperation with other regional bodies, processes and agreements, consistent inputs from the Pan-European region to the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2007 – 2015, addressing issues of the agenda items of UNFF sessions and strengthening the collaboration with the international arrangement on forests, inter alia, through sharing regional perspectives, approaches and experiences,
31. support objectives and actions at the Pan-European level that enhance the regional contribution to the achievements of the Four Global Objectives on Forests agreed by the UNFF and other relevant global commitments,
32. undertake further efforts towards strengthening collaboration of the MCPFE with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with the aim to recognise diverse roles of forests and their products in climate change mitigation, in the context of the post-2012 climate regime, as far as it contributes to the ultimate objectives of the UNFCCC,
33. strengthen collaboration of the MCPFE with the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) with the view to enhance the role of forests in combating desertification and combating floods,
34. contribute to the implementation of the relevant programmes of work of the CBD through effectively implementing the MCPFE commitments,
35. encourage joint activities of the forest and water sectors and enhance cooperation between the MCPFE and the Water Convention of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE),
36. support Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) ministerial processes and enhance collaboration between the MCPFE and the Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ENA FLEG),
37. use innovative and effective approaches to further strengthen the existing co-operation with other regional bodies and processes in Europe, such as Environment for Europe/PEBLDS, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations European Forestry Commission (FAO EFC), and UNECE Timber Committee (UNECE TC) in order to benefit from synergies, including for the development of consistent Pan-European input to UNFF sessions,

Putting MCPFE commitments into action

38. develop a work programme for the implementation of commitments of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Protection on Forests in Europe in cooperation with relevant organizations, institutions and processes and to reinforce implementation of previous commitments,
39. organise in this context together with stakeholders actions to communicate at all levels and to raise public awareness on the cross-sectoral importance of forests, and the forest sector,
40. carry out a review of the MCPFE process by the Sixth Ministerial Conference, by assessing progress made and obstacles faced in the implementation of its commitments.