Co-chairs' recommendations
Future direction of FOREST EUROPE

Second Working Group meeting

Bratislava, 13—14 June 2017

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What does FOREST EUROPE stand for?

- **Oslo Ministerial Decision**: „*FOREST EUROPE enhances the cooperation on forest policies in Europe under the leadership of ministers, and secures and promotes sustainable forest management with the aim of maintaining the multiple functions of forests crucial to society*"

- **Madrid Ministerial Declaration** adopted in 2015: „25 years together promoting SFM in Europe" reaffirmed this mission and role as well as **Madrid Ministerial Decision** "The future direction of FOREST EUROPE" reaffirmed the rope of FOREST EUROPE as a voluntary high-level political process for dialogue and cooperation on forest policies in Europe.

The signatories and observers are of the opinion that the current role of FOREST EUROPE is appropriate, but needs to be enhanced in terms of political relevance and effectiveness of the process.
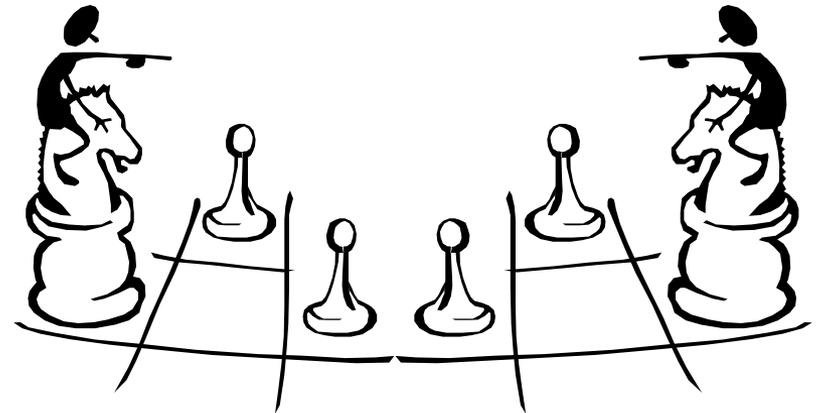
How?
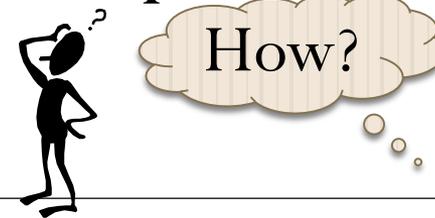
Future role – general overview

Future role of FE

LBA

This option is **outside the scope** of the ongoing review

Enhancing relevance and efectiveness including the current arrangements of FE

Future steps – strengthening role of FE

Strengthening FE

Enhancing relevance

Improving efficiency

1. **Addressing emerging issues**
2. **Better implementation of commitments**
3. **Strengthening cooperation at all levels**

1. **Structures**
2. **Procedures, work modalities**
3. **New work methods and tools**
4. **Improving visibility and communications**

- *Addressing emerging challenges for the society in relation to forests (100%)*

- *Enhancing contribution to global forest policy agendas (93.4%)*

- *Strengthening a science-policy dialogue (93.1%)*

- *Intensify the role of FE as a Criteria and Indicators process (83.3%)*

- *To increase relevance of FOREST EUROPE in relation to national forest policy issues" (83.3%),*

- *To promote the implementation of FOREST EUROPE commitments in signatory countries and the EU" (80%)*

Options

I.   Enhancing political relevance of FOREST EUROPE

Enhancing relevance (1)

Taking agenda and topics from UNFF – Q6 (88.5%)

More inclusive and open discussions among signatories and observers to define relevant topics Q13, 18 *(narrative comments)*

Identify relevant topics through cooperation with partners outside forest sector – Q9 (100%)

Enhance the relevance by addressing emerging issues

Taking agenda from relevant global processes, such CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD – Q6 (80.8%)

Providing interlinkages between global, regional and national levels – Q8 *(narrative comments)*

Collecting new topics through science – policy dialogue – Q2 (93%)

Does work program has to be fixed for 5 years?

Enhancing relevance (2)

Enhance relevance by better implementation of voluntary commitments

Strengthening of partnerships with other regional actors/stakeholders (90%)

Share systematically successful FOREST EUROPE implementation examples at national level by undertaking national events to enhance the cross-country exchange of lessons learnt (86.7%)

Regional and bilateral cooperation and experience exchange (89.7%)

Better incorporation of the commitments into national policies or national plans
(narrative comments)

Increase visibility and communication of FE outputs and best practices (93.5%)

II. Strengthening cooperation at all levels

Enhancing relevance (3)
Strengthening cooperation at all levels

- Strengthen cooperation with relevant organizations and stakeholders
- Choosing relevant topics possible with regional approach
- Encourage joint initiatives and actions
- Better respond to emerging issues
- Enhance scientific support and advise

Global level

European level

National level

- Proactive position
- Continue to work as C&I process
- Promoting achievements

- Promote implementation
- Disseminate best practices and lessons learnt
- Promote regional and bilateral cooperation
- Encourage participation

LBA is not considered here at the moment
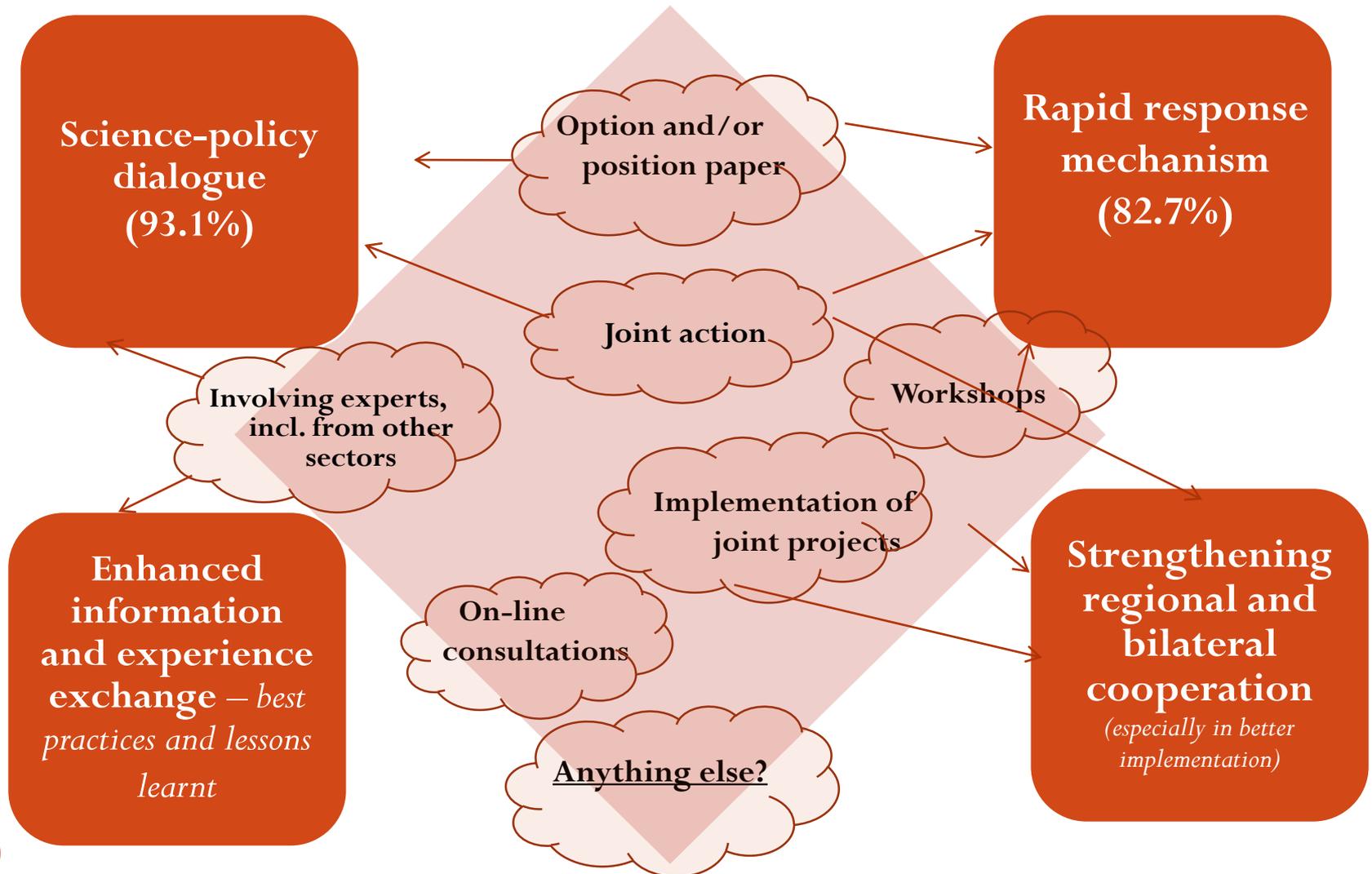Anything else?

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Enhancing relevance (3)
Strengthening cooperation at all levels (2)

Enhance cooperation with observers and interested stakeholders (besides of decision making)

Improving efficiency
New interaction mechanisms & tools

Science-policy dialogue (93.1%)

Rapid response mechanism (82.7%)

Option and/or position paper

Joint action

Involving experts, incl. from other sectors

Workshops

Implementation of joint projects

On-line consultations

Enhanced information and experience exchange – *best practices and lessons learnt*

Anything else?

Strengthening regional and bilateral cooperation *(especially in better implementation)*

III. Increasing visibility, communication and outreach

Improving efficiency
Communications & outreach

Internal communication among signatories and observers

WHY?

HOW?

Anything else?

- Sharing systematically successful FOREST EUROPE implementation examples to enhance the cross-country exchange of lessons learnt (Q4)

- Better communication with the signatories and observers could generate new topics and emerging issues (Q4) and secure more inclusive process of preparation of the meetings and MC (Q12, 13)

- Increasing visibility and „ownership" of the FE among signatories and observers (Q4)

Document-sharing portal (80%)

Online discussion forum - (74,2%)

Translation of the ministerial commitments into national languages for the purpose of visibility (70%)

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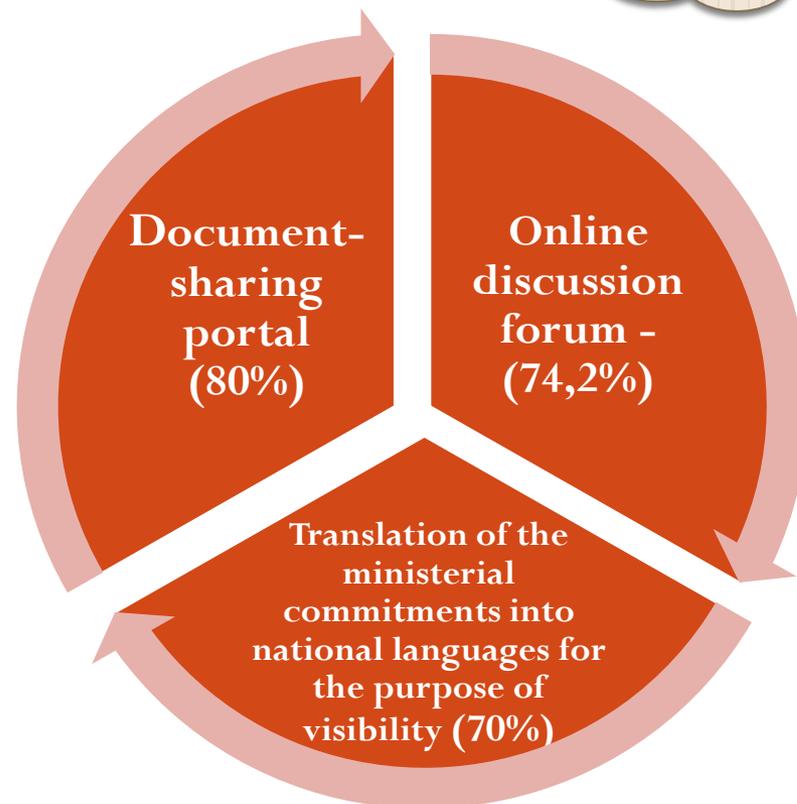
Communications & outreach

External communication

WHY?	HOW?

WHY?

- To increase the relevance of the process and to advocate for and increase the visibility of the SFM and forest sector Q8

- Through communication building bridges to other sectors and to identify key emerging issues Q9

- Strengthen position of FOREST EUROPE and implementation of cross-cutting topics of the WP Q9

HOW?

- Use of new communication tools in relation to different target groups **(93%)**

- Communication of FE outputs through social media **(93%)**

- National events, awareness raising, campaign across Europe (e.g. during International Day of Forests, European Forest Week, etc.) **(80,6%)**

- Holding thematic side events at relevant global fora **(87.1%)** and engaging international organizations in FE events could enhance such exchange of knowledge and practices (Q10 *narrative*)

- Increase media coverage and media communication during the ministerial conferences and other meetings **(90.3%)**

- Statements and policy papers on behalf of FE (related to GCC and LU role) **(83.8%)**

IV. Maximising the effectiveness and efficiency of the structure, procedure and work modalities

Improving efficiency
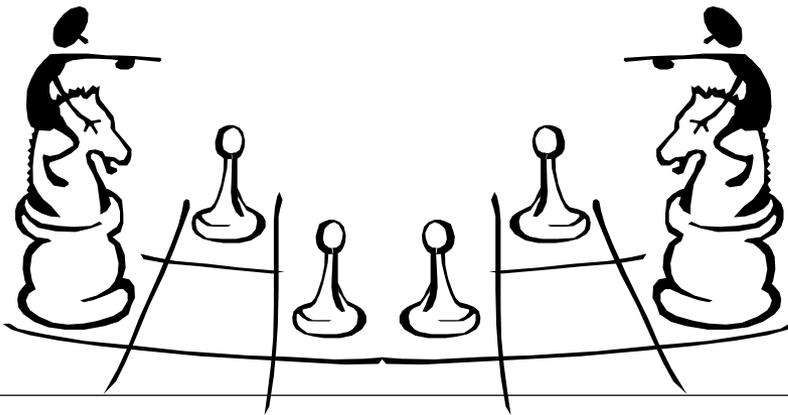## Structure and work modalities - MC

Ministerial Conference

Business as usual with improved communications

Relevant topics New format

Possible transforming into platform for interactive communication exchange on exact topic??

Structure and work modalities – MC (1)
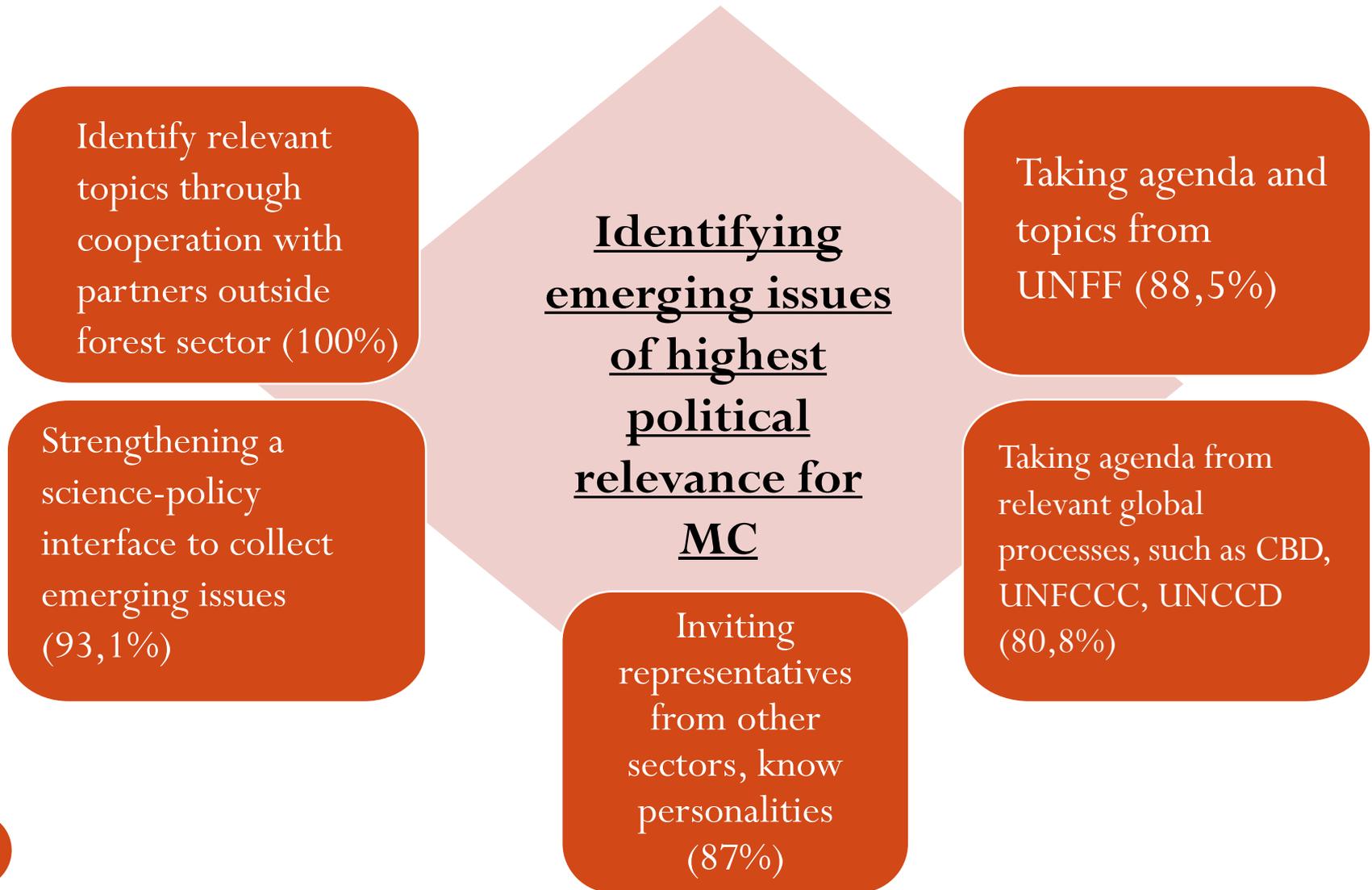## New format for Ministerial Conference

Tool to promote and enhance regional and bilateral cooperation

Regional approach

Platform for interactive communication exchange on highly relevant topics = enhanced engagement

Launching joint initiatives

Possibility to conduct dialogue with _____

- *Media coverage (90.3%)*
- *Use of facilitated discussions including interactions with other sectors (86.7%)*
- *Joint regional initiatives launched by ministers (80.7%)*
- *Interactive presentations of national achievements on best SFM practices (76.7%)*
- *Less formal and more dynamic manner (80%)*

Co-chairs´ notes for discussion:

- Main outcome is Ministerial declaration. No resolutions or decisions prepared beforehand
- It could be joint discussion and/or prepared several roundtables for presenting best solution and discussion of lessons learnt on particular topic

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Structure and work modalities – MC
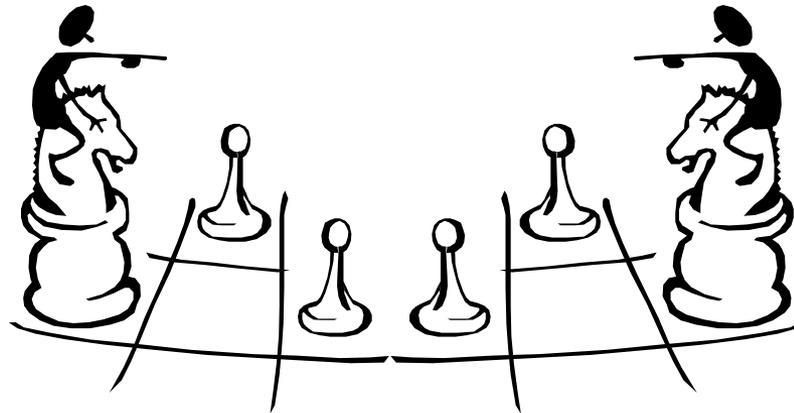## Topics for Ministerial Conference

Identify relevant topics through cooperation with partners outside forest sector (100%)

Strengthening a science-policy interface to collect emerging issues (93,1%)

Identifying emerging issues of highest political relevance for MC

Taking agenda and topics from UNFF (88,5%)

Taking agenda from relevant global processes, such as CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD (80,8%)

Inviting representatives from other sectors, know personalities (87%)
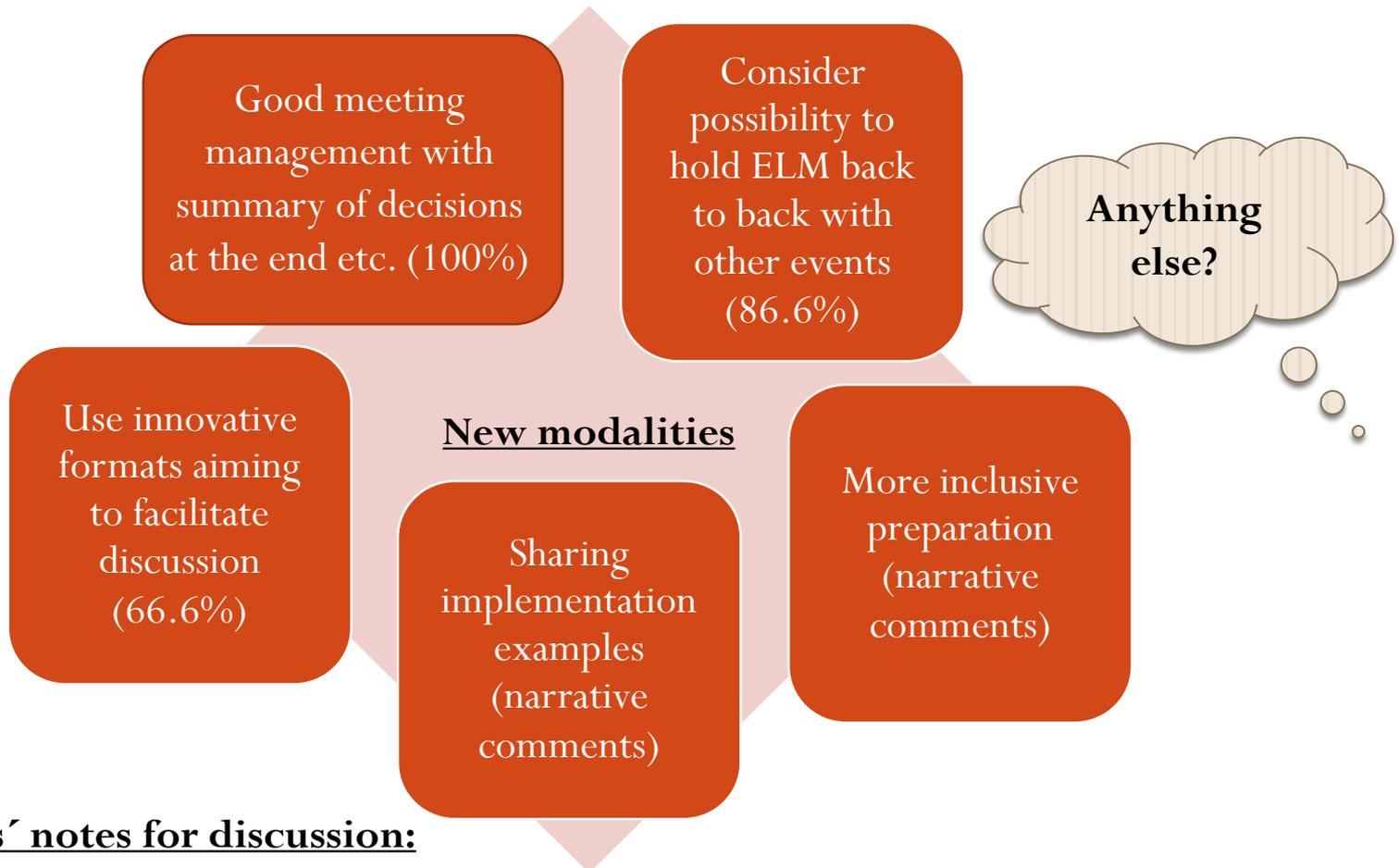
Improving efficiency
Structure and work modalities - ELM

Expert level meeting

Business as usual

New modalities with the same meeting status

New modalities for Expert level meeting

Good meeting management with summary of decisions at the end etc. (100%)

Consider possibility to hold ELM back to back with other events (86.6%)

Anything else?

New modalities

Use innovative formats aiming to facilitate discussion (66.6%)

Sharing implementation examples (narrative comments)

More inclusive preparation (narrative comments)

Co-chairs´ notes for discussion:

- To elaborate procedure for accommodating positions of signatories absent at the meeting
- ELM is conducted immediately after RTM to draw conclusions aiming at policy adoption
- To foresee procedure of on-line discussion and adopting of EG decision
- Consider changing name?

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Improving efficiency
Supportive structures – types of meetings

Most signatories wish to maintain structure and frequency of all types of meetings (more than 60%)

Types of meetings

Political decision making
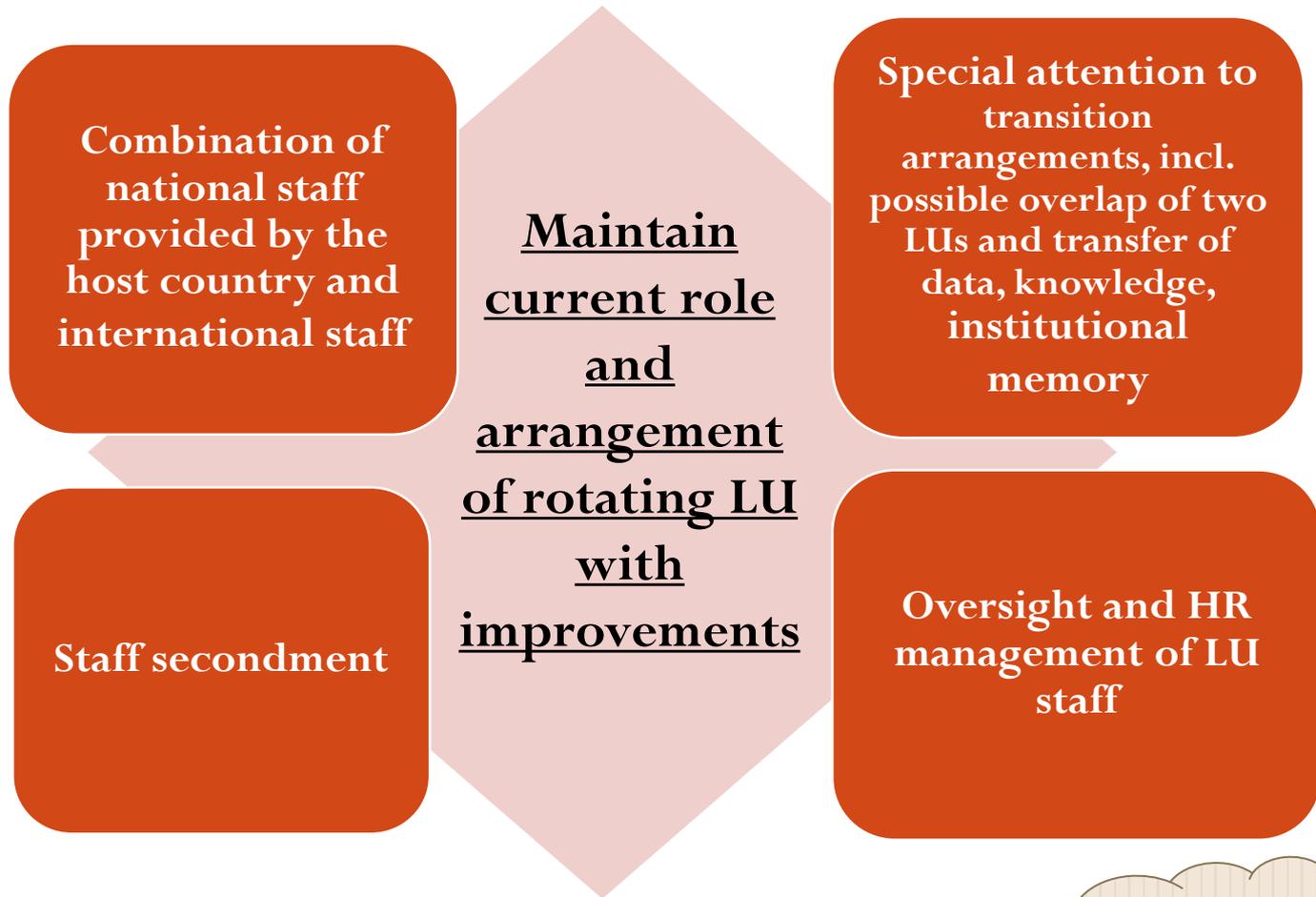- Ministerial Conference
- Expert Level Meeting

Strategic and technical debate
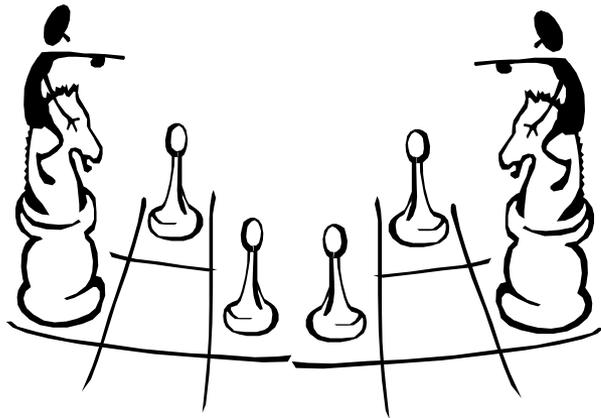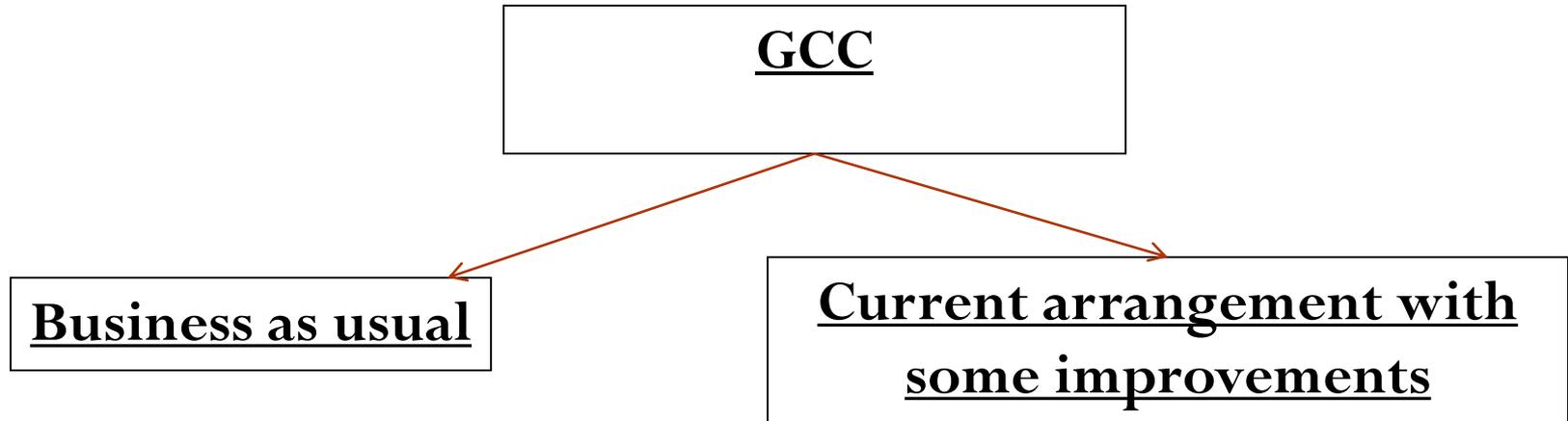- Roundtable meetings (ad-hoc)
- Working Group, AG
- EG, workshops

- Possibly new format for meetings of WG, EG and AG
- Clarifying role and/or merging the different types of technical meetings
- RTM's role for informal preparatory discussion recognized

Is merging some particular types of meetings would be relevant?

Structure and work modalities Liaison Unit

Combination of national staff provided by the host country and international staff

Special attention to transition arrangements, incl. possible overlap of two LUs and transfer of data, knowledge, institutional memory

Maintain current role and arrangement of rotating LU with improvements

Staff secondment

Oversight and HR management of LU staff

Anything else?

Based on narrative comments.

Structure and work modalities
General Coordinating Committee

GCC

Business as usual

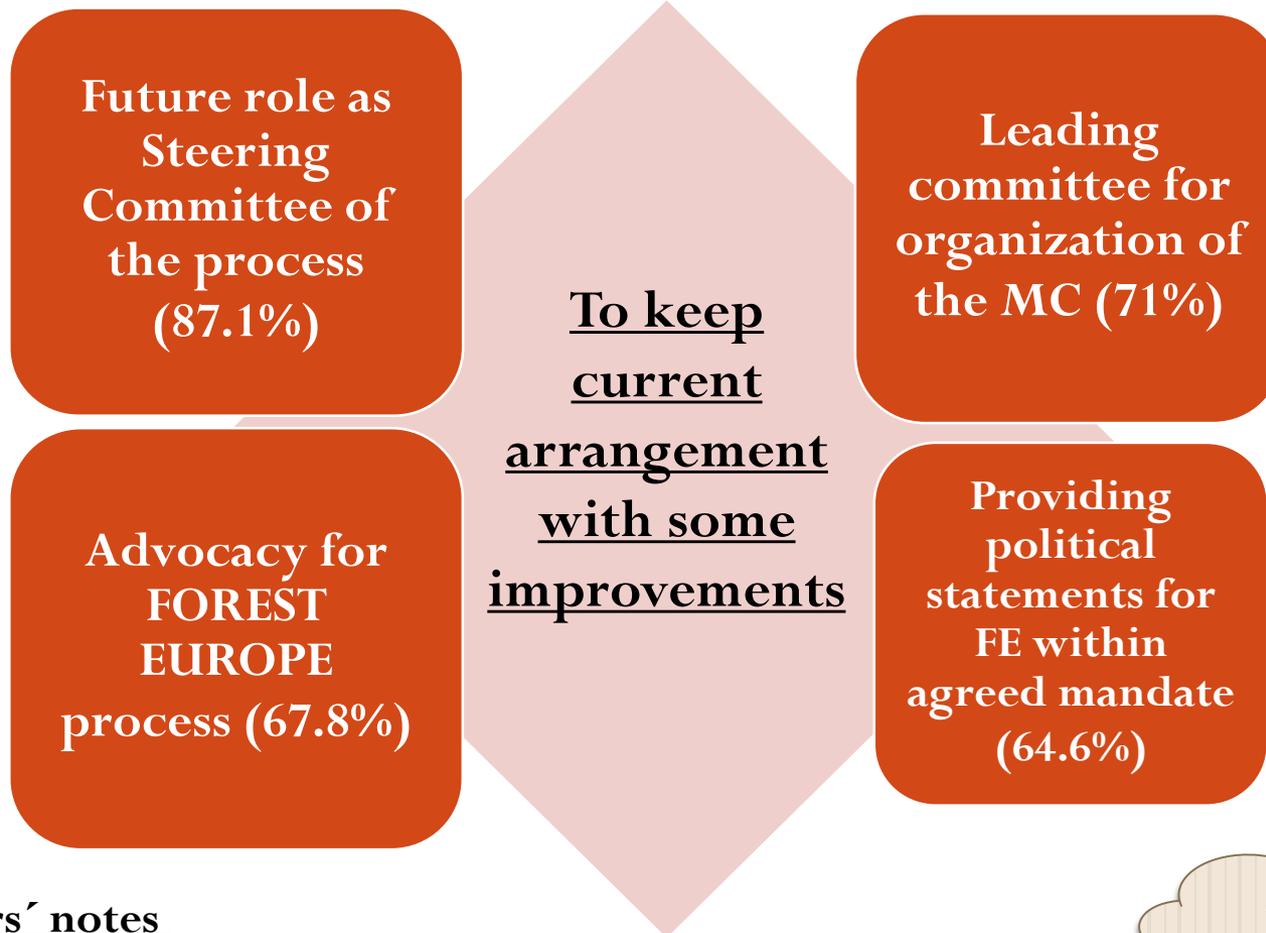**Current arrangement with some improvements**

Most signatories are satisfied with current arrangement:

- Rotation principle 83.9%
- Number of countries 71%
- Geographical balance 90.3%
- Membership linked with provision of fiancial support 67.7%
- Transparency and communication 71%
- Established practice of nomination for becoming GCC country 71%

# Structure and work modalities
General Coordinating Committee

Future role as Steering Committee of the process (87.1%)

Leading committee for organization of the MC (71%)

To keep current arrangement with some improvements

Advocacy for FOREST EUROPE process (67.8%)

Providing political statements for FE within agreed mandate (64.6%)

Co-chairs´ notes
- Open nomination process
- Strengthening transparency and communication

Anything else?

FOREST EUROPE funding

No mandatory contributions (77.5%)

Possibilities of improvement

Decrease costs

Increase funding possibilities
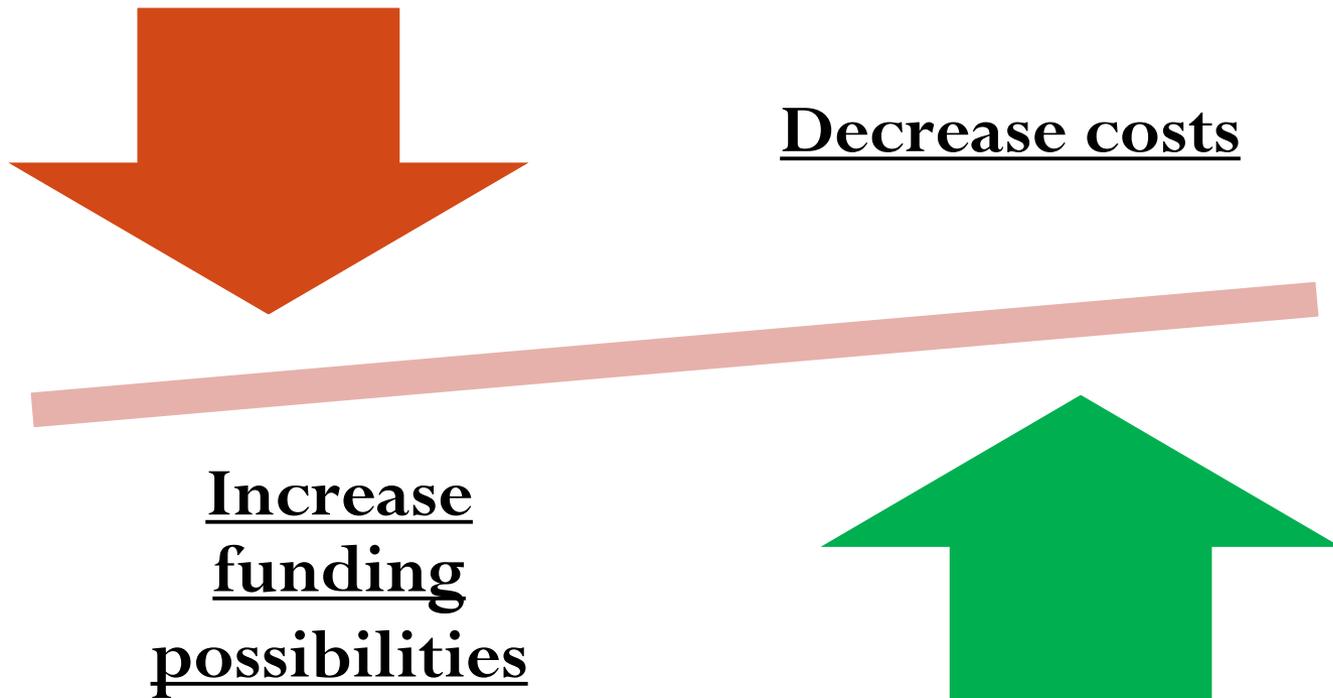
FOREST EUROPE funding

Future funding arrangements

Establishment of a Multi-donor Trust Fund (74.2%)	Maintenance of current practice of pooled financial resources by the GCC (70.9%)

Enhance in-kind contributions of signatories and observers (71%)

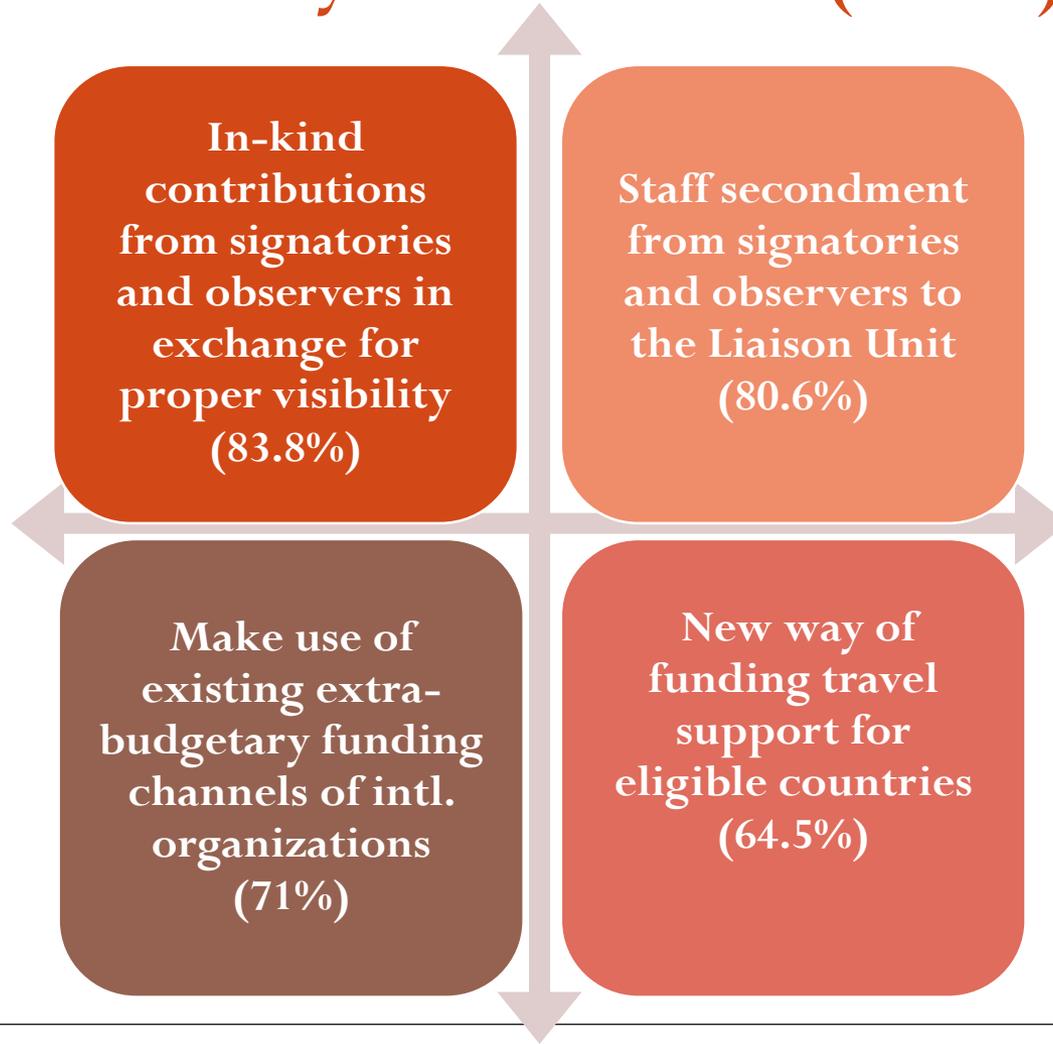**Explore novel ways of funding from the private sector (71%)**

Co-chairs´ notes
- Avoid translation/exceptional cases when translation is provided
- Limited number of meeting (as much as possible on-line consultation) and cost sharing arrangements for the meetings
- Save printing costs for handouts
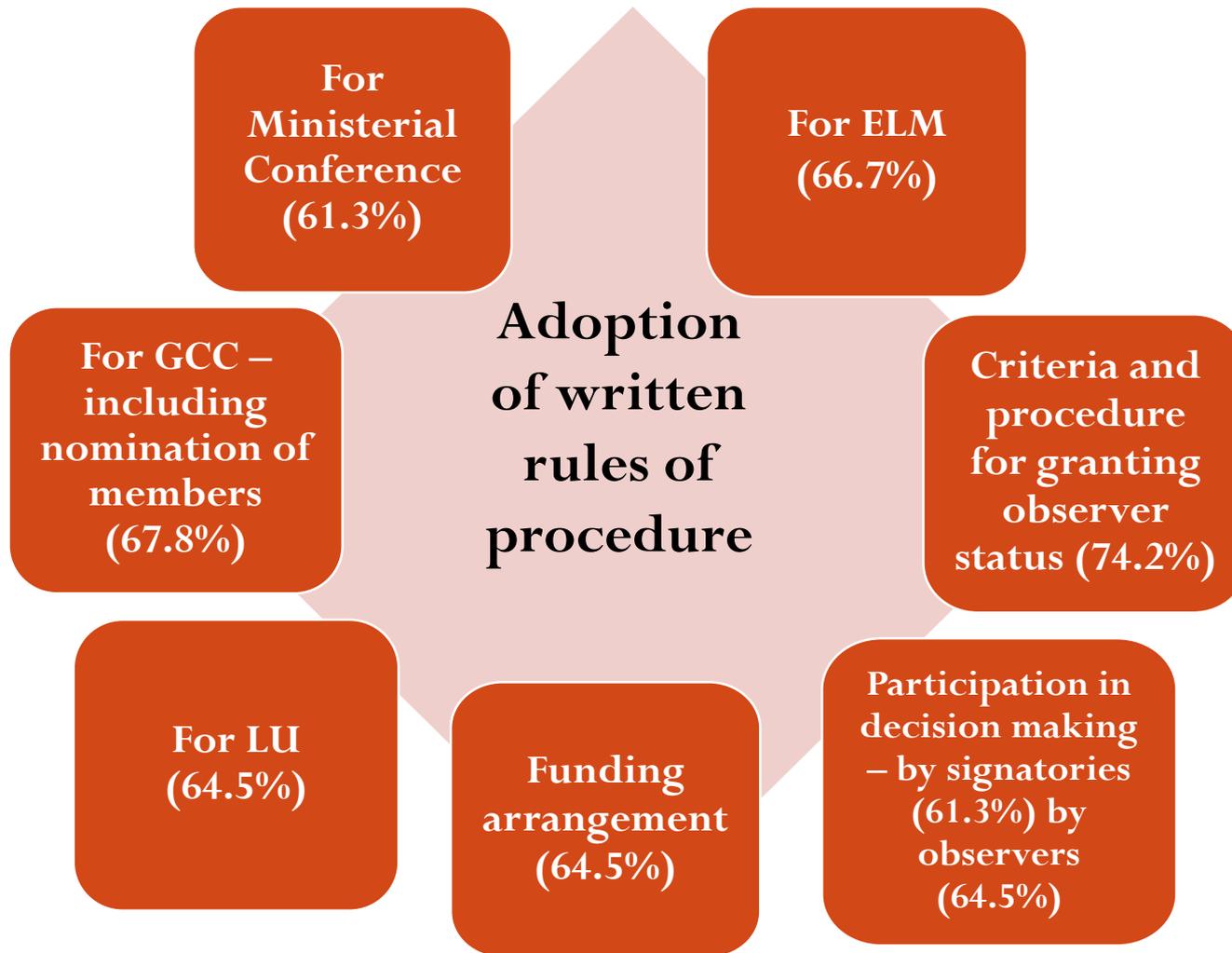
FOREST EUROPE funding

Cost-sharing arrangements

No mandatory contributions (77.5%)

In-kind contributions from signatories and observers in exchange for proper visibility (83.8%)

Staff secondment from signatories and observers to the Liaison Unit (80.6%)

Make use of existing extra-budgetary funding channels of intl. organizations (71%)

New way of funding travel support for eligible countries (64.5%)

FOREST EUROPE formalization

Rules of Procedure or description?

For Ministerial Conference (61.3%)

For ELM (66.7%)

Adoption of written rules of procedure

For GCC – including nomination of members (67.8%)

Criteria and procedure for granting observer status (74.2%)

For LU (64.5%)

Funding arrangement (64.5%)

Participation in decision making – by signatories (61.3%) by observers (64.5%)

Co-chairs´ notes for discussion:

Will we have a description of the process adopted by ELM ?

Improving efficiency
FOREST EUROPE formalization

FOREST EUROPE description

Definition

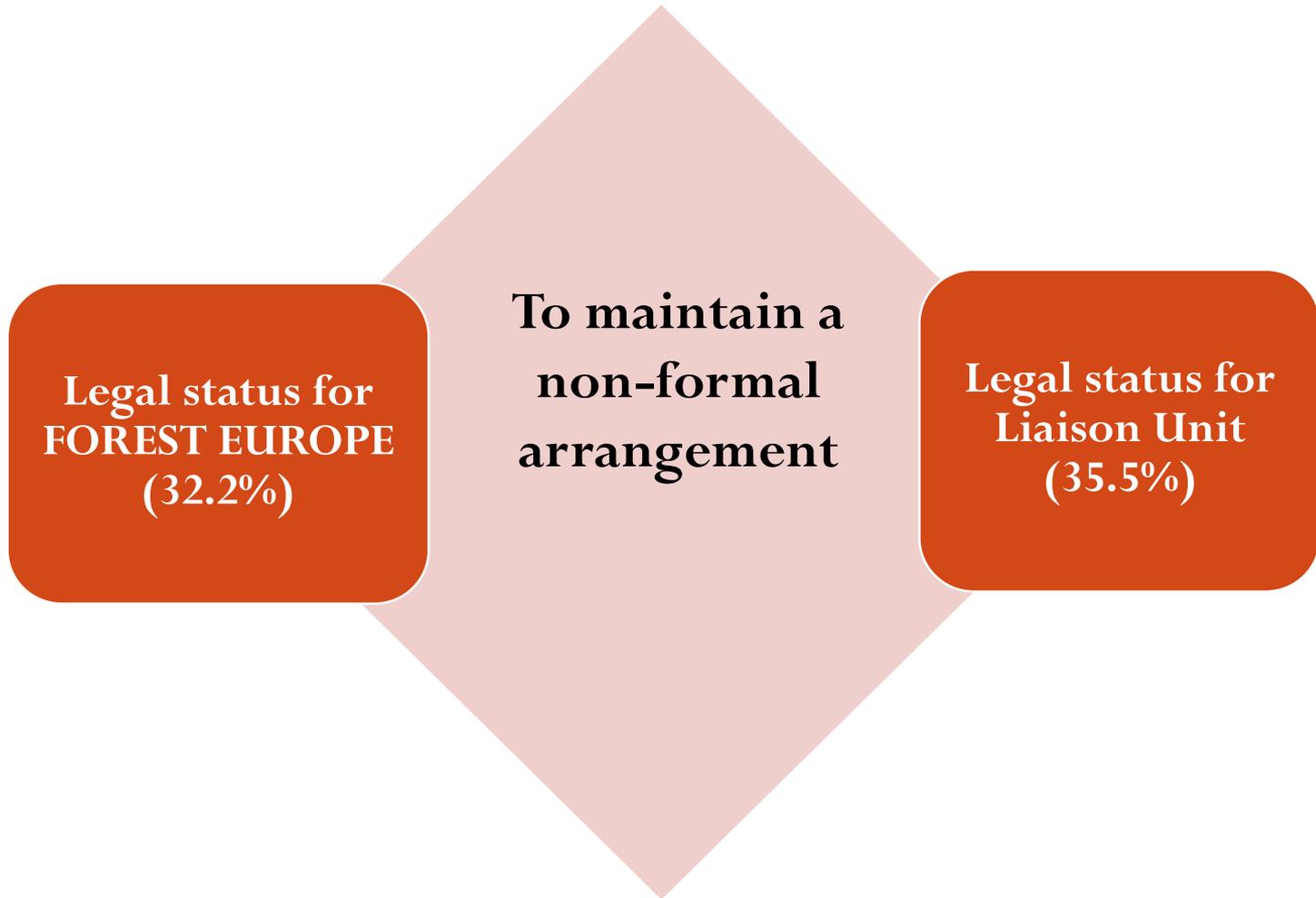(**Madrid Ministerial Decision** "The future direction of FOREST EUROPE")

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Objective (vision/mission)
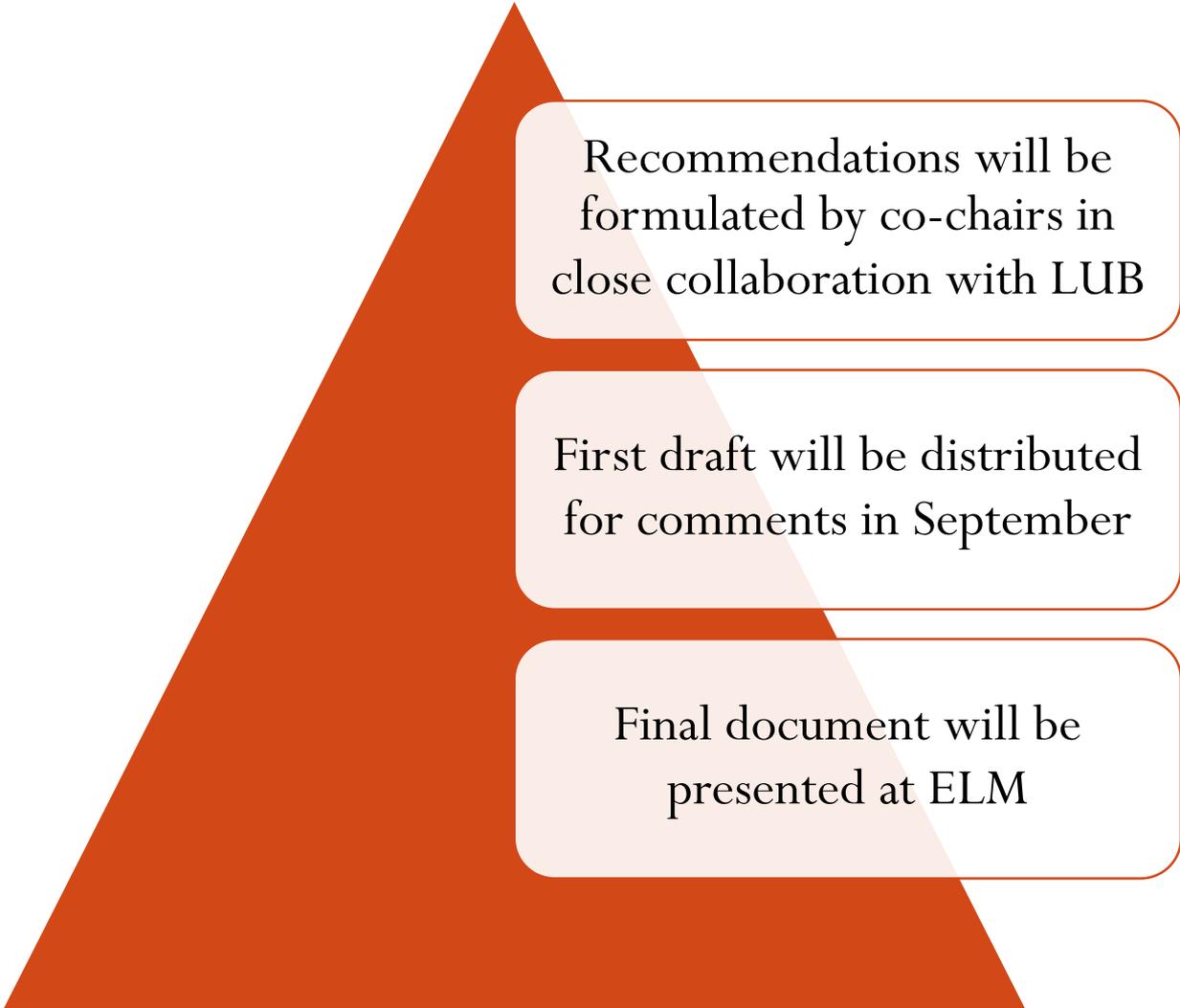
(**Oslo Ministerial Decision** "European forests 2020")

⬇

Scope of activities

⬇

Structure (for each component provide explanation and describe work modalities)

FOREST EUROPE formalization

To maintain a non-formal arrangement

Legal status for FOREST EUROPE (32.2%)

Legal status for Liaison Unit (35.5%)

Conclusion

Recommendations will be formulated by co-chairs in close collaboration with LUB

First draft will be distributed for comments in September

Final document will be presented at ELM