

Building blocks /elements for the Draft Bratislava Ministerial Declaration „Forests We Want“

GCC proposal

Possible preamble elements:

Vital role of forests	stressing the vital role of forests for European society and in achieving sustainable development globally.
	underscoring multiple benefits of forests and sustainable forest management for the lives and well-being of people
	stressing the unprecedented challenge of climate crisis the humanity faces today and an irreplaceable role of forests and the forest sector in mitigating climate change and adapting to its impacts. ¹
	being concerned about the extraordinary scale of negative impacts on European forests and worldwide witnessed especially over recent years
	stressing the economic and social dimension of forests constituting livelihoods, including income and job opportunities especially in rural areas on one hand, and offering numerous recreation and sport opportunities benefiting human health and wellbeing of all citizens, especially urban dwellers, on the other.
	being aware of certain megatrends that affect and will affect European forests in near or far future
	stressing the need to recognize and take into account the full value of forests and ecosystem services they provide. ² underlining importance of well-functioning and motivating instruments (such as payments for ecosystem services, other funding mechanisms or market-based solutions) for effective and sustainable use of non-marketed benefits of forests and SFM
Sustainable forest management	recalling sustainable forest management, as defined by the Helsinki resolution H1.
	recalling the 30 anniversary of the inception of the process and acknowledging its achievements
	recalling the long-term historical background and tradition of systematic management and protection of forests at the European continent that gave rise to the concept of sustainability

¹ Link to the proposal for Bratislava ministerial resolution on improving the adaptation and mitigation capacities of forests towards climate change

² Link to the work area 4.4 of the current Programme of Work (implemented before 2020)

	recognizing the need to address challenges and issues related to forests in a holistic and integrated manner (to achieve sustainable forest management and thus contribute to sustainable development)
European forests – state and challenges ahead	(placeholder for the State of Europe’s forests 2020 report) ³
	(placeholder for the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets report) ⁴
	endorsing/welcoming “Joint UNECE/FAO/FOREST EUROPE Guidelines on the Promotion of Green Jobs in Forestry” and (underlining/reiterating the need) to implement them to ensure decent work for all and to support development of sustainable and viable bioeconomy
	acknowledging the recent work done by FOREST EUROPE in compiling the evidence on numerous benefits that forests and green spaces bring for human health and well-being
	welcoming the Ministerial Decision on Resuming the Negotiations on a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe endorsed by the ministers in 2019

Possible commitment elements:

Vision for European forests	(further) share the vision for forests in Europe ⁵ .
European forests – state and challenges ahead	implement sustainable forest management to achieve the shared vision.
	(placeholder for possible Goals for European Forests and the European Targets ⁶ to be achieved by 2030 ⁷)
	confirm the need for the European region to continue in the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 and other global forest-related commitments
FOREST EUROPE process (beyond 2020)	affirm the role of FOREST EUROPE, as a voluntary high-level political process for dialogue and cooperation on forest policies in Europe.

³ Depends on conclusions of the State of Europe’s forests 2020 report. Important notice: State of Europe’s forests 2020 report will not contain data reflecting the situation in European forests caused by extreme events in 2018/2019. Despite of that, ministers may wish to reflect on these latest developments.

⁴ Depends on conclusions of the FOREST EUROPE report on the evaluation of meeting the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets

⁵ Oslo Ministerial Decision „European Forests 2020“

⁶ Oslo Ministerial Decision „European Forests 2020“

⁷ Depends on conclusions of the FOREST EUROPE report on the evaluation of meeting the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets

	affirm the mission of FOREST EUROPE ⁸ .
	build on the outcomes of the process' review conducted in 2017 ⁹ (to maintain / strengthen the ability of the FOREST EUROPE process to enhance and promote sustainable forest management in Europe)
	continue and further enhance cooperation and synergies with the work of forest-related organisations in the European region
Livelihoods and other social aspects of Sustainable Forest Management	continue and strengthen the efforts to pay due attention to social benefits of forests in forest-related strategies and policies
	stimulate entrepreneurship and create enabling business environment thus boosting creation of decent and green jobs opportunities in the forest sector
	make efforts towards cross-sectoral collaboration with other sectors to boost creation of new green job opportunities such as with health-care, agriculture, environment, water management sectors etc.
	develop instruments (such as payments for ecosystem services, other funding mechanisms or market-based solutions) encouraging sustainable provision of the forest ecosystem services that provide benefits for human health and society, and continue in sharing examples among countries in this respect.
	encourage implementation of forestry and agroforestry practices proving attractive working opportunities for new generation of forest workers and managers / improving livelihoods of rural communities
	strengthen inter-disciplinary research on forest sector employment to support evidence based policy making incl. on green job opportunities in the field of forest bioeconomy
	make assessment of direct and indirect impacts of all newly defined policies or policy objectives on employment and work in forestry and downstream industries
	encourage broad participation and consultation of all relevant stakeholders in the policy development and implementation that may affect forest management and related livelihoods
	(placeholder for inviting UNECE, FAO, ILO, IUFRO, IFSA, EFI to continue collaboration with FOREST EUROPE, in the area of green jobs and forest sector employment ¹⁰).

⁸ Oslo Ministerial Decision „European Forests 2020“

⁹ Set of recommendations for future direction of FOREST EUROPE adopted at the FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting held on 28-29 November 2017

¹⁰ placeholder with respect to a possible renewed mandate of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in Forest Sector

Ensuring skilled workforce and professional forest staff in the sector	further promote policies and policy tools aiming at increasing attractiveness of the forest sector in the labour market (taking into account aspects such as fair income, adequate health and safety standards), as well as broadening recruitment base (through promoting equality, ensuring non-discrimination, improving gender balance and employment diversity).
	make further efforts to promote skills development in the forest sector, and attract learners to forestry education or training
	promote active and broad participation of forest sector stakeholders in sectoral skill councils or equivalent mechanisms in order to enable timely identification of skill needs at labour market and development of corresponding qualification profiles.
	promote international collaboration and networking in the field of forest-related education and awareness rising among children and youth through initiatives such as global platform on forest education