



## Working Group on preparing options for a decision on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe

### FINAL REPORT

The Working Group on preparing options for a decision on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, in the period from January – November 2010 carried out the following tasks, in accordance with its Terms of Reference:

- *Clarify the issues, as recommended by the open-ended MCPFE Working Group on exploring the potential added value of and possible options for a legally binding agreement on forests in the pan- European region,*
- *Develop a comprehensive document (non paper), which sets out options for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe. The document should include objectives, commitments, institutional arrangements, negotiations process, as well as options on how an instrument could take advantage of already existing MCPFE commitments and arrangements,*
- *Present the findings, in particular the comprehensive document on elements of a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, in due time prior to the 6th Ministerial Conference.*

This report presents the results of the work conducted by the Working Group and contains the following documents:

1. *Non-paper on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe*
2. *Technical background for a ministerial decision on negotiating a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe*
3. *Draft Oslo decision on opening negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe*
4. *Consideration of possible Rules of Procedure for the Negotiating Committee to prepare a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe*

These documents are prepared by the Working Group for submission to the FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting and for relevant national consultations.

This report does not reflect any specific political positions of the Working Group members with regard to the issue of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe.

Oslo, November 2010