Draft decision to be taken at the Extraordinary FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference

The Expert Level Meeting in Cuenca, November 2014, agreed that a drafting meeting would conduct further work on elaborating a ministerial decision for the Extraordinary ministerial conference, which will be held on 23-24 March 2015, Madrid, Spain. The decision of the ELM is outlined here. In addition, the GCC suggests introductory paragraphs to the decision, and suggests adding a tribute to the Government of Spain for the consideration of the drafting meeting.

Madrid Draft Decision

[As representatives of the signatories of FOREST EUROPE, we:

- take note/acknowledge the outcomes of the INC at the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference in 2015.

- invite FOREST EUROPE signatories (and the successor states of the former soviet union), to use the agreed elements of the LBA to reinforce and strengthen implementation of sustainable forest management with the view to achieving balanced and stable continuity of all economic, environmental, cultural and social forest functions in Europe, and contribute to achieving the vision, goals and targets for forests in Europe in line with (para 17 of the Oslo Ministerial Mandate / in line with Oslo Ministerial Decision European Forests 2020). And invite other observer organizations and stakeholders to contribute to this end.

- will explore possible ways to find common ground in the future to complete the LBA, whenever possible / encourage the FOREST EUROPE signatory countries to find a common ground in the future to complete the LBA whenever possible.]

Additional elements:

RECALLING the Oslo Ministerial Mandate of 14 -16 June 2011, establishing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe (INC),

FURTHER RECALLING that the INC was requested to present its results to an Extraordinary FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference.

(Finally, Ministers may wish to add:}
Tribute to the Government of Spain

We, the Ministers,

Having met in Madrid on [X October 2015] at the generous invitation of the Government of Spain; CONVINCED that the efforts made by the Government of Spain and by the authorities of the city of Madrid in providing facilities, premises and other resources contributed significantly to the successful conduct of the conference,

EXPRESS our sincere gratitude to the Government of Spain, to the authorities of the city of Madrid and, through them, to the people of Spain, for the cordial welcome they accorded the Conference and those associated with its work and for their contribution to the success of the Conference.