

Madrid Ministerial Decision

Adopted by the Expert Level Meeting on 2 July 2015 for consideration by the ministers at the FOREST EUROPE Extraordinary Ministerial Conference Madrid 21 October 2015

RECALLING the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, June 2011, establishing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe (INC),

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

As representatives of the signatories of FOREST EUROPE, we:

- 1.** Acknowledge the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and take note of the outcome as contained in the report of the fourth resumed and final session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference in 2015.
- 2.** Recognize that the Draft Negotiating Text for a Legally Binding Agreement on forests in Europe as contained in the report of the fourth resumed and final session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference in 2015 should serve as a basis for potential further consideration of a Legally Binding Agreement.
- 3.** At an appropriate time and at latest by 2020, will explore possible ways to find common ground on the Legally Binding Agreement.