



Council of the  
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#### NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Second informal consultations on negotiations for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe 27 - 29 January 2020, Geneva - <i>Summary report</i>

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With a view to the Working Party on Forestry on 6 February 2020, delegations will find attached the “NON-PAPER OF THE INFORMAL CONSULTATION - SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT ON ENTIRETY OF TEXT” issued by the UNECE Secretariat as a result of the above-mentioned meeting.

The UNECE Secretariat expects all countries involved in these consultations to indicate their position by 28 February 2020.

As the following Working Party on Forestry is scheduled for 26 February 2020 - only 2 days before the above-mentioned deadline - delegations are kindly invited to prepare to indicate their position on the non-paper in the 6 February Working Party meeting.

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[The UNECE Executive Committee,

Noting the letter of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic and Co-Chair of Forest Europe of 10 June 2019 to the UNECE Executive Secretary conveying the Forest Europe Ministerial Decision on resuming the negotiations on a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe (FLBA) for consideration and further action;

Noting the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee established by the Oslo Ministerial Mandate, including the elaboration of a Draft Negotiating Text for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe;

Recalling the decision of the 106<sup>th</sup> EXCOM meeting of 8 July 2019 that took note of the information provided on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe and requested the Secretariat to organize informal consultations to consider the matter further.

1. Decides to establish a UNECE Negotiating Group for the preparation of a final draft text of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe (hereafter, "FLBA-NG").<sup>1</sup>
2. Decides to adopt the Terms of Reference of the FLBA NG, as contained in Annex I<sup>2</sup>.
3. Decides that the FLBA NG has a mandate of one year, beginning from its first meeting that shall be convened not earlier than 2021, and renewable by EXCOM as needed.
4. Decides that the FLBA NG shall be funded exclusively from extrabudgetary resources and calls upon the participating States and the European Union, as listed in Annex II, to provide contributions on a voluntary basis to support the work of FLBA NG.
5. Requests the UNECE Executive Secretary to ensure that, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, the necessary arrangements are made for the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to service the FLBA NG.<sup>3</sup>
6. Invites the States and the European Union interested in participating in the negotiation process, as listed in Annex II, to participate in the FLBA-NG and in the ultimate FLBA. Other UNECE Member States may participate as observer States in the FLBA-NG.
7. Invites all NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status as well as the entities listed in Annex III to participate in the FLBA-NG as observers.

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<sup>1</sup> The establishment of the FLBA-NG by the EXCOM does not imply any decision on any potential future role for the UNECE or FAO or any of their organs in supporting the implementation of any FLBA resulting from the work of the FLBA-NG.

<sup>2</sup> Annex I and all subsequent Annexes are an integral part of this decision.

<sup>3</sup> Subject to the consideration and approval by the appropriate FAO body.

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE UNECE NEGOTIATING GROUP FOR  
A LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT ON FORESTS IN EUROPE (FLBA-NG)**

**A. Objectives**

1. To reach consensus on the draft text of the FLBA using the Draft Negotiating Text (DNT).
2. To reflect in the FLBA recent policy developments including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.

**B. Activities and functions**

1. Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding, to meet as often as necessary to achieve its objective.
2. To recommend a draft text of the proposed FLBA to the EXCOM for its consideration and possible adoption.

**C. Methods of work**

1. Rules of Procedure: The FLBA-NG shall adopt its own rules of procedure, consistent with rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council and the UNECE.
2. Reporting: The Chairperson of the FLBA NG will provide periodic updates on the progress of the FLBA-NG to EXCOM.
3. Chairperson: The chairperson and the two vice chairpersons would be elected at the first meeting of the FLBA NG.
4. Secretariat: The FLBA-NG will be serviced jointly<sup>4</sup>, exclusively by extrabudgetary resources, by the Joint ECE-FAO Forestry and Timber Section in Geneva<sup>5</sup>. ]

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<sup>4</sup> Subject to the consideration and approval by the appropriate FAO body.

<sup>5</sup> Subject to the consideration and approval by the appropriate FAO body.

## ANNEX II OF DECISION ----

Albania	Latvia
Andorra	Liechtenstein
Armenia	Lithuania
Austria	Luxembourg
Azerbaijan	Malta
Belarus	Monaco
Belgium	Montenegro
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Netherlands
Bulgaria	North Macedonia
Croatia	Norway
Cyprus	Poland
Czech Republic	Portugal
Denmark	Republic of Moldova
Estonia	Romania
European Union	Russian Federation
Finland	Serbia
France	Slovak Republic
Georgia	Slovenia
Germany	Spain
Greece	Sweden
Holy See	Switzerland
Hungary	Tajikistan
Iceland	Turkey
Ireland	Turkmenistan
Italy	Ukraine
Kazakhstan	United Kingdom
Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan

## ANNEX III OF DECISION ----<sup>6</sup>

Alpine Convention	EUSTAFOR - European State Forest Association
Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes (AIFM)	FECOF - Fédération Européenne des Communes Forestières
Biodiversity International	FERN
BWI (Former IFBWW)* - Building and Wood Workers' Internationale	Forest Europe Liaison Unit
Carpathian Convention	Foresters' Association for a Green Turkey
CEI-BOIS* - European Confederation of Woodworking Industries	FSC* - Forest Stewardship Council
CEPF* - Confederation of European Forest Owners	Friends of the Earth Europe
CEPI* - Confederation of European Paper Industries	Greenpeace International*
CEETAR - European Organisation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors	IFSA* - International Forestry Students' Association
CIC - International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation*	IIASA* - International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
COPA-COGECA - Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations and General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union	IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
Council of Europe	ITTO - International Tropical Timber Organization
Council of European Foresters (CEF)	IUFRO** - International Union of Forest Research Organisations
EFI - European Forest Institute	Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN)
ELO* - European Landowners' Organisation	Montreal Process
EOMF - European Observatory of Mountain Forest	PEFC*- programme for the endorsement of forest certification
EOS - European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry	Pro Natura - Friends of The Earth Switzerland
European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW)	Regional Environmental Center For Central and Eastern Europe (REC)
European Investment Bank	UEF - Union of European Foresters
	USSE - Union of Foresters of Southern Europe
	WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature International

<sup>6</sup> \* Active consultative status with ECOSOC as of 1 September 2018

\*\* Organizations placed on the Roster under heading "C" by virtue of their consultative status with other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies (FAO)