



**Russian Research Institute for Silviculture and  
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# **Negotiation process on legally binding agreement on forests in Europe**

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# International negotiation process on forests

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## Results of comparative analysis of summits 1972, 1992 and 2002 documents:

- summit 1972 documents had to define humanity development strategy:
  - declaration of 26 principles,
  - action plan – 106 recommendations,
  - recommendations for UN General Assembly to establish UN environment program - UNEP;
- summit 1992 identified new problems without reference to the previous ones;
- so over 40 years none of set targets has been reached in global aspect



# International negotiations process on forests (background)

## **Under the auspices of UN Forest Forum – UNFF (2000)**

- in 2000-2007 legally non-binding document on all forests was finalized (UN General Assembly resolution of January 31, 2008).
- established a special mechanism – Joint forest partnership (JFP) comprising 14 international organizations including  
FAO, UN development program (UNDP), UN Environment program (UNEP), UN Forest Forum (UNFF), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Convention on biological diversity (CBD), UN Framework convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), World bank and others.



# European negotiation process on forests (Background)

## Ministerial conference on forest protection in Europe (MCFPE)

hasn't adopted any legally binding document on forest management

Strasbourg 1990 – adopted 6 Strasbourg resolutions aimed at technical and research-technical cooperation.

Helsinki 1993 – adopted Helsinki declaration and 4 resolutions focused on European approach to deal with global environmental problems and sustainable forest management principles.

Lisbon 1998 – signed 2 resolutions considering forest multifunctional role. Special focus on forest-society relation and interaction.

Vienna 2003 – signed Declaration “European forests – general wealth, general commitments” and adopted 5 resolutions. Various stakeholders (forest owners, representatives of forest industry, public, environmental and research organizations) participated for the first time.

Warsaw 2007 – signed Warsaw declaration and 2 resolutions; “Forests, tree and energy” and “Forests and water”. European ministers committed to promote role of forests in European community life and development and their rational use.



# European negotiation process on forests (background)

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## In 2010 MCFPE got another title Pan-European Process “European Forests”

### Ministerial conference of “European Forests”, June 2011, Oslo, Norway:

- made a historical decision to start negotiations on a new regional legally binding document as stated in Oslo Ministerial mandate for negotiations on development of a legally binding agreement (LBA) on European forests;  
identified LBA development process management scheme;
- specified that “Parties” are UN member states or economic integration regional organizations-signatories of “European Forests” process and
- involved in Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on LBA.



## **RESULTS (Parties decision):**

**Future Agreement will be a framework regulating the whole range of forest relations skipping technological issues of timber processing and sale.**

**LBA won't result in additional barriers for Parties economic development.**

**Special commitments, mechanisms, ways of performance control will be specified by protocols under the Agreement.**

**LBA will comprise 6 major sections.**

**Negotiation process "road map" approved.**



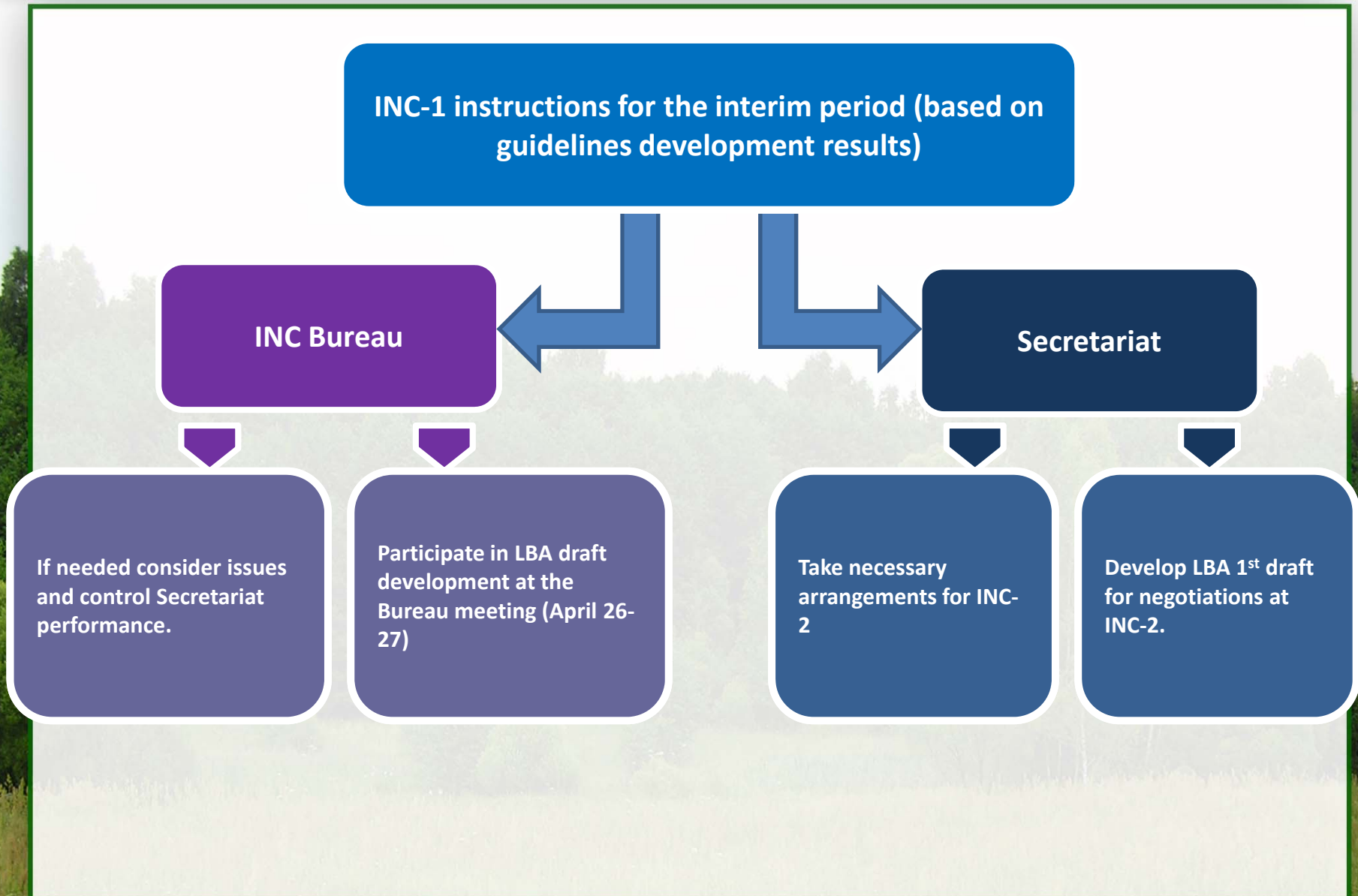


- I. Preamble**
- II. Definitions\terminology**
- III. Goals (objectives)**
- IV. Principles (probably specified in the preamble)**
- V. Targets (expressed in measurable indicators) – in this issue the Parties haven't reached a final decision on feasibility of this provision definition in framework agreement text.**
- VI. Rules and procedures**

**Some member states (including the Russian Federation, Norway and others) and the European Union reserved the right of making required amendments in document structure until INC 2<sup>nd</sup> session.**



# International Negotiation Committee instructions







## No agreement on:

- title i. e. the word “Europe” in it;
- Party commitments, criteria, indicators and their performance control;
- forest management guidelines;
- format of UN organizations involvement in LBA development.



## At present stage of negotiations:

**INC chairman and the secretariat will try to finalize negotiations on LBA by June, 2013 (deadline specified in the Ministerial mandate).**

**However the prospects are not quite clear**

- ✓ In the meantime some process participants (in particular the European union on behalf of its member states) were not ready to discuss and shape guidelines on a number issues at INC-1;
- ✓ taking into consideration that EU is a supra-national institution the document should pass all stages of national agreement in its territory and then be approved by the corresponding EU structures;
- ✓ practically all member states reserved the right of amending LBA structure and draft at any time. So every issue will be scrutinized at national level which will result in numerous amendments of LBA draft provisions.



**Thanks for your attention**