



**Mutual statement of the organisations assigned to the
Major Group “Social NGOs” to the
Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue at the
Warsaw Conference, November 2007**

ENFE	European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs
BWI	Building and Wood Workers' International
UEF	Union of European Foresters
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes

Responsibility for Forests

This grouping of forest practitioners, professionals, contractors, forest workers and specialists on forest management and certification who have been assigned under the Major Group “Social NGOs” are delighted to be invited to present our views to the deliberations of the 5th MCPFE.

We share the concerns of the signatories of the Warsaw declaration that the conditions of life on earth are threatened, and that today, and increasingly in the future, the sustainable use of natural resources is an ongoing and increasingly important necessity.

The contribution of forests to the quality of life has many aspects. One is the role forests play as a work place, providing employment and income. Thus, forests and the use of their resources and services are an important factor in rural economies and a mainstay in the fabric of rural society. This economic function was highlighted in the Vienna “Living Forest Summit”, where the mission statement “Sustainable Forest Management needs a Sustainable Workforce” was emphasised.

Creating “forests for quality of life” is a goal which can only be achieved through the responsible activities of those people engaged in management and forest operations. Therefore, whilst we wish to use this opportunity to draw attention to the social dimension of forestry which is to protect and ensure the multiple values and services forests offer to society, we wish equally to emphasise the role forestry plays as a source of employment and income, in particular the social role in contributing to maintaining and strengthening local communities and providing sustainable employment in rural areas.

Active management of Renewable Resources by Public Procurement policies

We firmly believe that there will be an increasing demand for wood both for industrial use and energy in the future. Therefore we welcome the signatories' commitment to take effective measures to increase the use of woody biomass for energy generation, taking into account the importance of processing residues and recovered wood as renewable energy sources, and the signatories' commitment to encourage partnerships aimed at the development of markets for bio-energy.

We will play our part in contributing to the mobilization of the wood needed to generate more value to forests and forest products by making use of our practical knowledge of forest management, harvesting techniques and logistics.

We welcome the signatories' intention to further strengthen efforts to promote good governance and forest law enforcement to combat illegal logging and related trade of forest products, inter alia by cooperating on and promoting public procurement policies that demand timber and timber products from legal and sustainable sources.

In order to support rural development and secure sustainable employment in fair markets, we urge the signatories to the MCPFE to make use of and support the use of the MCPFE Criteria and Indicators and the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines (PEOLG) for Sustainable Forest Management as the basis for both public and private procurement of timber based products, to achieve a harmonized approach to procurement policies throughout Europe.

Human resources need active development

European foresters, forestry workers, contractors and their representative bodies, supported by forestry certification systems, have a firm understanding of their responsibilities for sustainable forest management and sustainable development. This relates to the protection of nature and environment in their forest operations, including the protection of water quality, and also their awareness of the importance of the use of renewable resources from forests. This however requires foresters, forestry workers and contractors themselves to have opportunities for secure jobs and a satisfactory income together with the opportunities to develop their careers and entrepreneurship.

However the reality of strong economic pressures in globalised markets, mean that these social values are not universally guaranteed.

Therefore, the commitment to strengthen good governance and law enforcement is very important because this will, together with the implementation of the MCPFE Criteria and Indicators supported by voluntary forest and service certification, help combat the undermining of social standards; improve health and safety and contribute to the development of human resources needed for sustainable forest management.

Strengthen Employment

The forestry sector is in a competitive situation. We are highly concerned that income opportunities in forestry are, in many cases, not competitive with other forms of employment. This can be seen as a severe restraint to achieving the goals laid out in the Warsaw Declaration and the Resolutions. Therefore, it is a crucial challenge for all actors in forestry, on both a political and a practical level, to agree means to strengthen forest and forest sector related human resources and employment to fulfil this commitment of the Warsaw declaration. For an optimisation of all aspects of modern, multi-functional forestry, qualified forest personnel in sufficient numbers is crucial.

Education and Communication

Education and communication of the goals of sustainable management, water protection and increased wood mobilisation are prerequisites to raise the qualification of foresters, workers and contractors, and to affirm their commitment to contribute to these goals. We are pleased to acknowledge that many commitments of the Warsaw Declaration and Resolutions aim at improving communication and raising awareness. However, it is imperative that this message reaches all actors in forest management and forest operations. To this end appropriate means need to be developed and implemented both at a political and a practical level.

Foresters, workers, contractors and certifiers are entrusted with the responsibility for creating Forests for Quality of Life so we will play our role as an essential bridge between the commitments and demands from society and industry for development.

The European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs, the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers, the Union of European Foresters and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes affirm that these umbrella organisations together with their members and representative bodies will make every effort to support putting the commitments of the Signatories of the Warsaw Declaration and Resolutions into reality towards **Forests for Quality of Life.**