

As none of the two revisions referred above took place, Portugal would like to remind that the structure and basic content of the Convention date from 1959, reflecting a response to particular needs and demands of a certain period of the World History and that, in the last decades, particularly since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, outstanding developments concerning the forest-related international debate have occurred. We would also like to underline that the current trend in relation to legally binding instruments, particularly when it comes to forest-related issues, is not in the sense of narrow approaches - on the contrary, the single dimensional approaches are replaced by comprehensive and holistic frameworks that can deal with the complex and multidimensional nature of global forest related issues. And we are very well aware of the severe budgetary constraints and decrease of human resources in current organisations and of the absolute need to avoid duplication of efforts and to look for synergies amongst related instruments.

Hence, Portugal considers of utmost importance to prevent further fragmentation of forest-related matters and to enhance coordination among international organisations, institutions and instruments addressing forest issues. In this sense, we are of the view that a more comprehensive streamlining and modernisation of IPC could have happened even leading to a radical change in the very nature of the instrument and in its positioning within FAO as, maybe, it is no longer justifiable to have a Convention with such characteristics but, instead, the launching of a more operational structure within the Organisation seems better fit for purpose.

In light of the above, Portugal strongly recommends the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters of FAO to revisit the text of the International Poplar Commission Convention.

Thank you for your attention.

The Portuguese  
delegation

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