

STATEMENTS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES

International Poplar Commission

Special Session, Rome, Italy, 6 February 2019

Portugal

Vote - YES for approval of the amendments to the text of the International Poplar Commission Convention

Statement made in explanation of vote

Mr Chairman,

Portugal is grateful for the opportunity to make a statement in *explanation of vote* and kindly requests that this statement became part of the minutes of this Special Session. Our main concern in relation to the previous version of the amendments has been taken into account, therefore Portugal voted YES for approval of the amendments to the text of the International Poplar Commission Convention.

However, and recalling our message of the 7th of September 2018 when responding to the invitation to send comments on the proposed amendments to the Convention, which we reaffirm, we would like to clearly reiterate that this is a missed opportunity to carry out an in-depth reform of this Convention. Indeed, questions about its current added value and comparative advantages within the international forest-related organizations framework should have been raised. And, at least, efforts could have been made with a view to adequate the text of the Convention to modern international texts, needs and available resources, applying vocabulary and formulations currently used in similar documents thus leading to the redesign of the Convention and transforming it into an up-to-date structure.