



Geneva, 4 March 2022

PEFC Council

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Message to members

Dear members,

The PEFC community is deeply concerned about the war outbreak and invasion of Ukraine lead by the Russian Government with the support of the Belarus' Government as it contradicts the core values that inspire PEFC causing unspeakable and unacceptable pain and death to innocent people, including women and children.

After considering our standard rules, engagement with PEFC stakeholders and following the recent UN resolution, we inform you that the PEFC Council Board of Directors has issued a statement today clarifying that all timber originating from Russia and Belarus as 'conflict timber' and therefore cannot be used in PEFC-certified products. The clarification that timber from Russia and Belarus is to be categorised as conflict timber is based on the UN General Assembly Resolution A/ES-11/L.1 "Aggression against Ukraine" during the 11th Emergency Special Session, which "deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine [...] [and] the involvement of Belarus" (2 March 2022). This clarification enters in force since the quoted UN General Assembly resolution was adopted.

This statement follows requests by members, stakeholders and market partners to the Board to provide such a clarification. PEFC will provide consistent clarification in case of future UN resolutions in comparable situations.

The clarification is initially valid for six months. We deeply hope that the situation is resolved soonest, in which case the Board will undertake a review.

This statement does neither affect the membership of PEFC Russia and PEFC Belarus in PEFC Council, nor does it affect the endorsement of their respective national systems.

The Secretariat has been in permanent touch with Mariya from PEFC Ukraine and are glad to report that she and her colleagues are safe for now. We have offered them our support and assistance in this unprecedented situation, and we know from many of you that you are eager to help if needed.

We would like to stress that this decision is strictly circumscribed to the decision of President Putin to invade a sovereign country with the support of the Belarus' government. The PEFC community values the efforts of our members in Russia and

Belarus, especially its staff, during the past years and is full aware of the challenges that this decision might cause to them.

Kindly circulate the statement to your stakeholders.

We will offer further guidance next week.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eduardo', written in a cursive style.

Eduardo Rojas Briales
Chair of the PEFC Council Board