

**Assessment of the relevance of the 2014-2017 UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work to the needs of member States  
and challenges in the forest sector**

**Progress report as at 31 December 2018**

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date/deadline	Date of implementation/comments
1	<b>Maintain focus on value chain from forests to forest product/timberland markets</b>	The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will continue its efforts to maintain and further strengthen the focus on the value chain until the end of the current Programme of Work (PoW) period, in particular in working on the next cycle of the outlook studies, which is of essential importance for the forest - forest products - markets chain. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the PoW for the 2018-2021, and proposals will be included for their consideration in planning the work for the next period.	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- October 2017/ the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) for 2018-2021 provides a comprehensive plan for work on the whole value chain (forest sector) and contains plans for the next cycle of outlook studies that will focus on value chains and how they are affected by climate change, structural changes and the green economy</li> <li>- December 2016/ Workshop on streamlining the next round of Forest Sector Outlook studies was organized to improve coordination and communication between experts involved in the forest sector outlook studies across the UNECE region</li> </ul>
2	<b>Continue using meetings for knowledge brokering and experience exchange</b>	The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will continue work in this direction as recommended and will make efforts to organize more events in cooperation with relevant partners including Forest Europe process and FAO Regional Office in Budapest until the end of the current period of the PoW. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the PoW for the 2018-2021 and proposals will be included for their consideration in planning the work for the next period.	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- September 2016/ at the "Transition to a Green Economy" conference, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section organized an information stand with Forest Europe, and issued a joint statement on the role of forests in achieving the green economy</li> <li>- December 2016/ Capacity workshop organized jointly with the International Renewable Energy Agency for countries in the UNECE region to improve completeness and availability of wood energy data.</li> <li>- October 2017/ The IPoW 2018-2021 specifically</li> </ul>

				mentions the strong focus on working in partnerships with international and regional actors as the most effective way of optimizing benefits and avoiding potential duplication of activities. The Committee and the Commission will seek and welcome cooperation for any of the relevant outputs under the four Work Areas.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Use joint meetings to convene with stakeholders from the entire northern forest belt</b>	The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will work with countries and organizations and make efforts to address this recommendation, with particular attention to organizing events in cooperation with other, relevant regional organizations and processes active in northern forest belt, including Montreal Process, Forest Europe, and Circumboreal Initiative until the end of the current PoW period. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the PoW for the 2018-2021 for their consideration in planning the work and cooperation for the next period.	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- October 2017/ The IPoW 2018-2021 specifically states that cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations and processes, including the European Union, the Intergovernmental Council on Forestry and the Forest Industry of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Forest Europe, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and the European Forest Institute, amongst others, should be fostered.</li> <li>- May 2017/ Joint side event organized by Forest Europe and UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on Forests and Green Jobs</li> <li>- June 2017/ joint workshop organized by Forest Europe and UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on promoting Green Jobs in the Forest Sector.</li> <li>- September 2017/ initiation of the cooperation Circumboreal Cooperation Initiative on joint work related to boreal forests, in particular outlook studies.</li> </ul>

<b>4 Foster sectoral themes that do not receive sufficient attention in other fora</b>	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will address this recommendation within the remaining time of the current PoW; however, the implementation of this recommendation to a large extent depends on the content of the PoW developed for the next quadrennium. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the PoW for the 2018-2021 and proposals will be included for their consideration in planning the work for the next period.	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	2017	March 2017/ International Day on Forests dedicated to forest and energy links, focused on sharing related information to the broad public. October 2017/ The IPoW 2018-2021 includes specific work area related to communication, with strong direction to sharing information beyond traditional forest constituencies. October 2017/ Team of Specialist on Wood Energy approved – this is one example of raising attention to sectoral themes that do not receive sufficient attention in other fora
<b>5 Use the Rovaniemi Action Plan as basis for institutional development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia</b>	The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will implement the new capacity building project (during 2016 and 2017) in close cooperation with the relevant forest ministries and agencies. Support to institutional development in the Eastern Europe and Central Asian region will be also provided through other activities/projects (in cooperation with FAO and other relevant partners) aiming at supporting countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the PoW for the 2018-2021, for their consideration in planning the work and cooperation for the next period.	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	2017	June 2016/ start of the UNDA capacity building project “Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in Caucasus and Central Asian countries”. It supports countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda October 2017/ The IPoW 2018-2021 includes specific work area related to capacity building, including the work on institutional development.
<b>6 Coordinate actions with work for other international agreements</b>	The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will continue implementation of the current PoW in a cooperative manner, involving relevant international partners. The Section will support the activities of the other organizations and processes that are convergent with those of the PoW. The Section will monitor developments in other international agreements (for updating the member States and stakeholders) and provide information about the	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	2017	October 2017/ The IPoW 2018-2021 specifically states that cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations and processes, including the European Union, the Intergovernmental Council on Forestry and the Forest Industry of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Forest Europe, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the International

	<p>contribution of the PoW to these processes. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the PoW for the 2018-2021, and proposals will be included for their consideration in planning the work and cooperation for the next period.</p>			<p>Union of Forest Research Organizations and the European Forest Institute, amongst others, should be fostered.</p> <p>The IPoW 2018-2021 will contribute to the implementation of: (i) the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs, (ii) the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030, (iii) the United Nations Forum on Forests Quadrennial Programme of Work 2017-2020, (iv) the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, (v) the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and (vi) other international objectives and processed relevant to forests, including the Bonn Challenge and the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy.</p>	
7	<p><b>Reflect on private sector integration into the work of UNECE/FAO</b></p>	<p>The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will reflect on increasing further the private sector integration into the work of UNECE/FAO. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFG and GOFFI in their work on the PoW for the 2018-2012, and proposals will be included for their consideration in planning the work for the next period.</p>	<p>UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section</p>	<p>2017</p>	<p>October 2016/ October 2017 sessions of COFFI and COFFI/EFC include thematic panels with the strong participation of the private sector and ownership.</p> <p>October 2017/ The IPoW 2018-2021 specifically states that the private sector is a key actor for developing sustainable forest management, sustainable forest products and services and the transition towards a green economy. The participation of the private sector in the work of the Committee and the Commission including in the market discussions will be actively sought, in line with the ECE and FAO organizational policies. Increased participation from various relevant stakeholders should be encouraged.</p>