Report by the Chair of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) to the Executive Committee (EXCOM)

The Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) of COFFI and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC)

Dr. Guy Robertson, Chair
103rd meeting of the Executive Committee
1 February 2019, Geneva, Switzerland
Achievements of 2018

WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment

- Interactive database on *Forest Ownership in the UNECE Region*
- Global and regional reporting incl. training for national correspondents from Europe and CCA

- Unique set of data for forests in the region to support policymaking
- About 2,000 experts mobilized in the region through various reports, workshops and ToS
Achievements of 2018

- **WA2: Policy advice and dialogue**
  - **Ministerial Roundtable** on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia
  - **Mid-term Review** of Rovaniemi Action Plan → priority actions developed
  - **National Forest Policy Dialogues** in Azerbaijan and Ukraine
  - **Studies:** *Forests and Water – Valuation and payments for ecosystem services* – including the most comprehensive database of case studies on water-related payments for forest ecosystem services schemes in the UNECE region; *Green Jobs in the Forest Sector*

**Outputs**

- **2.5 million ha of landscape** committed for restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia
- Astana Resolution: committing the region to go beyond 2.5 million ha and strengthen partnerships and regional cooperation
- Countries are using guidance on key policy issues
Achievements of 2018

WA3: Communication and outreach

Outputs

- **International Day of Forests 2018: Forests and Sustainable Cities event**
- **Made in Forests movie production** - more than 4,000 views and presented to world leaders by UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Michelle Yeoh
- **Forests for Fashion Initiative** – exhibition at the High-Level Political Forum
- **Cartoon The Three Little Pigs and Climate Change** presented at COP24
- **COFFI session in Vancouver (first ever in NA) Vancouver Invitation on Forest Products for a Better Future,**

Impact

- Increased visibility outside the forest sector (through presence at HLPF and engagement of different audience at COFFI2018)
- Strengthened public support for value of wood-based products (through exhibitions, movie, celebrity endorsement, Vancouver Invitation)
Achievements of 2018

WA4: Capacity-building

Outputs

• Implementation of UNDA project: Accountability systems for SFM in the Caucasus and Central Asia (2016-2019) through national workshops and guidelines for the development of national criteria and indicator sets for SFM
• Wood balances workshop to harmonize data

Impact

• National criteria and indicator sets in 5 Central Asian and Caucasian countries
• Streamlined forest reporting
Major activities planned for 2019 and beyond

- **WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment**
  - **State of Europe’s Forests and UNECE wide reporting**
    - Improve the visibility and understanding of the forest sector in the region to national policy makers and the international community
    - Encourage regional dialogue and cooperation on forest related issues, and strengthen efforts to improve data quality
  - **State of Forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia region**
    - Improve knowledge about the relevance of wood energy in the region
    - Provide member States with the best-available sources of information on the role that wood energy can play in various sectors to support environmental, energy, and socio-economic strategies towards a greener economy
  - **FSSQ and markets annual reporting**
  - **Joint Wood Energy Enquiry and wood energy study**

**IMPACT/OUTPUT**

Open-source, transparent, reliable forest sector data for the ECE region
### Major activities planned for 2019 and beyond

**WA2: Policy advice and dialogue**

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td><strong>Forest Sector Outlook study</strong></td>
<td>• Provide capacity building to member States to adapt and use the results for their respective national needs</td>
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<td><strong>Guidelines on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Monitoring of implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan</strong></td>
<td>• Planned to take place in Ukraine in 2019</td>
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<td>• Expected to result in substantial reforestation commitments by countries in the region</td>
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<td><strong>Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in Eastern Europe and the Balkans</strong></td>
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<td>• In Kazakhstan to develop a National Forestry Strategy</td>
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<td>• In Azerbaijan to revise and update the National Forestry Strategy</td>
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**Impact/Output**

- Open-source forest sector outlook models
- New green jobs in the forest sector identified
- Country commitments to forest landscape restoration under the Bonn Challenge
- National Forest Strategies developed
Major activities planned for 2019 and beyond

- **WA3: Communication and outreach**

  **Forests and Education**
  - International Day of Forests 2019 and focus on SDG 4 Quality Education during the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region ➔ Forest Education and Pedagogy

  **Joint Session and 5th European Forest Week**
  - Preceded by JWP in March to discuss work of ToS

  **Promotion of Vancouver Invitation on Sustainable Forest Products for a Better Future**

  **Promotion of Videos Made in Forests and of The Three Little Pigs and Climate Change**

**IMPACT/OUTPUT**

- Positive communication on the forest sector reaches people
- Improved public image of forest products
Major activities planned for 2019 and beyond

- WA4: Capacity-building

**UNDA project on “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia” (2016-2019)**

- Regional Summit 28-31 May 2018 in Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan
- Publication of the Guidelines for the development of national criteria and indicator sets

**Technical Cooperation activities**

- Increase commitment towards forest landscape restoration
- Improve forest-data quality and accessibility across the region
- Provide a platform for forest policy dialogues

**IMPACT/OUTPUT**

- National criteria and indicator sets in 5 Central Asian and Caucasian countries
- Streamlined forest reporting
Key decisions from COFFI 2018

- Full use of digitalization and application of IT technologies in every aspect of work
- COFFI approved the *Vancouver Invitation on Sustainable Forest Products for a Better Future* as contained in the Annex I of the meeting report (ECE/TIM/2018/2)
- COFFI adopted its Rules of Procedure as included in Annex III of the meeting report (ECE/TIM/2018/2)
EXCOM is invited to consider to change the name of subprogramme 7 from “Forestry and Timber” to “Forests and the Forest Industry” to align the name of the subprogramme with the Sectoral Committee and transmit its recommendation to the Economic Commission for Europe for consideration at its sixty-eighth session.
Thank you!

Guy Robertson
Chair
Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
1 February 2019, Geneva, Switzerland