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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

TIMBER COMMITTEE

Sixty-seventh session
Geneva, 13-16 October 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
Starting at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 12 October 2009 *

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Green building workshop.
3. Matters arising from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe session.
4. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in a changing international environment: briefing and discussion of recent developments.
5. Market developments in 2009 and prospects for 2010:
 - (a) Market discussions;
 - (b) Country market statements;
 - (c) Country market forecasts;
 - (d) Drafting Committee.
6. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Policy Forum: The forest sector in the green economy.
7. Review of activities since the sixty-sixth session and programme of work.
8. Performance evaluations.
9. Election of officers.
10. Any other business.
11. Date and place of next session.
12. Adoption of the report.

* Documents available for all sessions, and more information, including registration form, at www.unece.org/timber.
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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Opening of the meeting

1. Mr. Jan Kubis, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), or his representative, will open the sixty-seventh session of the Timber Committee.

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2009/1

2. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the adoption of the agenda is the first item of the agenda.

Item 2. Green building workshop

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2009/2

3. A workshop on “responding to climate change: towards a global approach to green building” will be held on Monday, 12 October, in advance of the Timber Committee session. This workshop is organized in response to the request by the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission at the European Forest Week to “continue to work on green building and related issues together with other UNECE committees, including the Committee on Housing and Land Management, the Committee on Sustainable Energy, as well as other relevant bodies.” This item summarizes the workshop’s outcome.

Item 3. Matters arising from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe session

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2009/3

4. The Committee will be informed of the decisions adopted by the Commission at its sixty-third session, held in March/April 2009, which have a bearing on the work of the Committee, as well as other decisions and developments, notably of a cross-sectoral nature. The Committee will be invited to take these decisions and developments into account when adopting its programme of work under provisional agenda item 7.

Item 4. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in a changing international environment: briefing and discussion of recent developments

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2009/4

5. The Committee will be briefed on developments of relevance to its work within for a, such as the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and FAO. The Committee will be invited to take these into account when deciding on its future work.

Item 5. Market developments in 2009 and prospects for 2010

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2009/5

6. The Committee will review developments in 2009 and prospects for 2010 on the basis of: the *Forest Products Annual Market Review 2008-2009 (Geneva Timber and Forest Study Paper, ECE/TIM/SP/24)*, countries' written statements, countries' market forecasts and expert presentations. An agreed statement synthesizing the discussions and forecasts will be prepared during the session and published immediately afterwards as a press release.

(a) Market Discussions

7. The theme of the discussions will be "the UNECE region's forest products markets in a global economic crisis." The discussions will include the following topics:

- (a) Forest products market and policy developments
- (b) Main economic developments affecting forest products markets
- (c) Green building's influence on the forest sector
- (d) China's market developments
- (e) Certified forest products markets
- (f) Sustainable and legal wood trading policies
- (g) Carbon markets
- (h) Wood raw material market developments and forecasts
- (i) Wood energy markets and policies
- (j) Softwood market developments and forecasts
- (k) Hardwood (temperate and tropical) market developments and forecasts
- (l) Panel market developments and forecasts
- (m) Paper, paperboard and woodpulp markets and forecasts

(b) Country market statements

8. Timber Committee delegations are reminded that their country market statements in English, French or Russian, are expected to reach the secretariat¹ **by 11 September 2009**. In preparing the country statements, delegations are requested to refer to specific instructions, which will be provided in a secretariat note. Country reports are requested in electronic format only and will be posted in advance on the Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission website: <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=200>.

(c) Country market forecasts

9. Country market forecasts for 2009 and 2010 (prepared on the basis of the Timber Committee Questionnaire to be sent out by the secretariat at the end of July 2009) **should be submitted not later than 11 September 2009**. Supplementary copies of the questionnaire may be obtained from the secretariat on request, or from the website.

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(d) Drafting Committee

10. It is proposed that the Drafting Committee for the Timber Committee Market Statement meet at 08:30 hours on Thursday, 15 October 2009, to consider the draft of the report concerning market developments and prospects, which will be approved by the Committee under item 12 of the provisional agenda.

Item 6. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Policy Forum: The Forest Sector in the Green Economy

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2009/6

11. The topic of this year's Policy Forum is "The Forest Sector in the Green Economy". The Forum will evaluate the situation of the forest sector in times when the global economic crisis is bringing job losses, mill closures, falling prices, reduced income and budget cuts for the sector all over the UNECE region. The Forum will present and assess the extent to which the forest sector can benefit from the major stimulus programmes that are being implemented all over the world, as well as other public spending directed at greening the economy.

12. United Nations Agencies have called for "a world-wide transition to a low carbon, resource efficient Green Economy able to deliver multiple economic, social and environmental benefits", by "re-focusing the global economy toward investments in clean technologies and 'natural' infrastructure such as forests". A "Green New Deal", an idea advocated by some governments and major international organizations, could lead toward a Green Economy by channelling major government investment to green sectors such as energy-efficient building, sustainable transport and renewable energy. Such initiatives, implemented at the global and national level, would simultaneously improve the world's environment while addressing the economic emergency. Some of the current stimulus programmes and public subsidies directly target the forest sector or influence it indirectly, notably through support to renewable energy.

13. The Policy Forum aims to address the following issues: What are the implications of green economic stimulus packages and public spending for the forest sector: from forest management and protection to forest industries and recycling? What are the opportunities for the sector and how can the sector influence the policy process? What can governments, forest managers and companies do in the present, difficult times not only to survive economically, but to emerge strengthened from the economic downturn, with the "green" characteristics of the sector reinforced? Can the sector be proactive rather than reactive?

14. Areas of interest would include green building, wood energy and environmental services from forests. Governments, industry, researchers and other stakeholders from all parts of the sector are invited to exchange information and ideas on strategies for long-term development of the sector and its potential for helping to develop a green economy. A series of case studies on short-term survival and long-term development of the sector will also be presented.

Item 7. Review of activities since the sixty-sixth session and programme of work

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2009/7

15. The Committee will be informed of activities since the sixty-sixth session held jointly with the thirty-fourth session of the European Forestry Commission at the European Forest Week, and the initiation of the Strategic Plan 2008-13 of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme on timber and forestry adopted at that session (ECE/TIM/2008/7). Having set the longer-term strategic direction of the programme, the Committee will be presented with a list of projected outputs until 2010 and will be invited to endorse these.

16. The Committee will also be presented with a draft of the United Nations Strategic Framework 2012-13 for the UNECE subprogramme on timber and forestry, comprising the subprogramme objectives, strategy, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement. The draft Strategic Framework is aligned with the programme objectives and strategy as contained in the Strategic Plan 2008-13.

17. Under this item, the Committee will also be invited to review and approve the UNECE/FAO strategy on forests and climate change, developed by the secretariat following the request of the Committee and Commission at the European Forest Week to conduct a “gap analysis” and present proposed activities. The future activities on forests and climate change under the UNECE/FAO joint integrated programme of work were approved by the joint Bureaux at its meeting on 3 April 2009. They are aligned with FAO's strategic directions on forests and climate change as well as the Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

Item 8. Performance evaluations

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2009/8

18. Under this item, the Committee will be briefed on the performance evaluations for the 2008-2009 biennium, notably the United Nations programme performance reporting and the self-evaluation on the elaboration process, content, dissemination and use of the MCPFE/UNECE/FAO State of Europe's Forests report 2007.

19. Charged with the implementation of the programme of work, the Joint Bureaux of the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission will be requested to assess, at its first meeting in 2010, the performance of the programme on the basis of accomplishment accounts for each cluster of activities agreed by the Committee at its sixty-sixth session in the framework of the UNECE biennial evaluations. The Committee will be informed of the results of this review in writing. At the same time, the Joint Bureaux will review the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for each cluster of its activities for the biennium 2010-2011, on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat, which will take into account the results of the 2008-2009 assessment.

Item 9. Election of officers

20. In accordance with its Rules of Procedure and established practice, the Committee is expected to elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, who will hold office until the end of the sixty-eight session. At the sixty-sixth session, Mr. Branko Glavonjic (Serbia), Chairman, Mr. Johann Dengg and Ms. Linda Langner as Vice-Chairpersons, were elected to hold office until the end of the sixty-seventh session.

Item 10. Any other business

21. At the time of writing, the secretariat has no points to propose under this item.

Item 11. Date and place of next session

22. It is proposed that the sixty-eight session of the Timber Committee be held in conjunction with the International Conference of the Society of Wood Science and Technology in Geneva during the week of 11 October 2010.

Item 12. Adoption of the report

23. The Committee will be invited to adopt its report on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. According to the UNECE Plan of Action, the report will be short and decision oriented. However, the Committee will be invited to approve formally the market statement based on the discussions under item 5, and approved by the Drafting Committee on 15 October 2009, Thursday morning.

III. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

TIMBER COMMITTEE, Sixty-seventh session	
Tuesday, 13 October 2009	
10.00	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda
	Item 2. Green Building workshop (summary)
	Item 3. Matters arising from the UNECE session
	Item 4. UNECE/FAO in a changing international environment
15.00	Item 5. Annual Market Discussions: UNECE region forest products markets in a global economic crisis
18.00	Chairman's reception
Wednesday, 14 October 2009	
10.00	Item 5. Market Discussions (continued all day)
Thursday, 15 October 2009	
10.00	Item 6. Policy forum "The Forest Sector in the Green Economy"
Friday, 16 October 2009	
10.00	Item 7. Review of activities since the sixty-sixth session and programme of work Item 8. Performance evaluations Item 9. Election of officers Item 10. Any other business Item 11. Date and place of next session Item 12. Adoption of the report
13.00	End of Timber Committee session

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