



UNECE



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of the United Nations

REPORT FROM THE 5TH MEETING OF THE UNECE/FAO TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST POLICY NETWORK

27 March 2019 | Geneva | Switzerland





Introduction

The 5th meeting of the UNECE/FAO Forest Policy Network was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 27 March 2019, in the margins of 41st session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, which took part in Geneva in 27-29 March 2019.

Six participants, including four country delegates and two secretariat members, attended the meeting.

Opening of the Session

1.1 Opening of the meeting

During the absence of Ms. Marta Gaworska, Leader of the Network, Mr Tomas Krejzar, deputy team leader of the Network, welcomed the participants and introduced the meeting agenda. He thanked all Network's members and secretariat for their contributions to the Network program and work.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

Update on the ToS activities

2.1 Update on the ToS activities

Mr. Krejzar provided an update of the Team's activities since the last meeting in Geneva (14 February 2019), highlighting the important role of the Team in exchanging experiences, information and for dissemination of policy-related work at the regional and national levels. In particular he noted the:

- (i) Organisation of the 4th meeting of ToS on Forest Policy Network held in Geneva, Switzerland, 14 February 2018, back to back with the workshop on "mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan" (Geneva on 13 - 14 February 2018).
- (ii) Provision of inputs to regional and global forest policy process including the United Nation Forum on Forests (UNFF 13), Forest Europe, and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development HLPF 2018;
- (iii); Development of Policy briefs on the contributions of the forest sector to the implementation of Agenda 2030, which was developed and distributed during the HLPF 2018
- (iv) Contribution to the mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan (RAP), including inputs to the RAP review survey and regional workshop;



(vi) Reporting and policy relevant inputs to the 30th session of JWP in March 2018 and the policy relevant outcomes of the the seventy-sixth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI), which was held in Vancouver, Canada, 5 to 8 November 2018. The main theme was "Building the future with forests". The Committee approved the "Vancouver Invitation on Sustainable Forest Products for a Better Future", which is a statement of intent to create a larger community of like-minded stakeholders in support of sustainable forest products as a key element of a green economy and to achieve relevant SDGs.

(v) organisation of the two National Forest Policy Dialog meeting in Ukraine and Azerbaijan in 2018.

2.2 Update on the secretariat activities

Mr Ekrem Yazici, Secretary of the ToS Forest Policy Network, provided a brief update about secretariat work during the reporting period. Due to time constraint, he referred to the document ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/Inf.5 of the forty-first session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party for further information.

Mapping the latest global and regional policy developments with a view of information sharing and input setting possibilities.

The secretariat and the ToS team briefed ToS members about developments within global and regional processes.

3.1 Forest Europe process

Regarding Forest Europe process, the secretariat updated FPN members. The joint section is working in a close cooperation with the Liaison Unit of the Bratislava (LUB) of the Forest Europe and provides inputs to forest policy process and other relevant works to prevent overlaps and create synergy and impact.

The Joint Section cooperates with Forest Europe and FAO in producing regular fact-based reports on sustainable forest management in countries, based on jointly collected data, including Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) and the publication the "State of Europe's Forests" to support effective forest planning and management.

The joint section is developing a Guidelines on the Promotion of Green Jobs in Forestry jointly with the Forest Europe. The guidelines build on the work of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and FOREST EUROPE, in particular the outputs of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint UNECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network, see UNECE 2018) and FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on Green Jobs, Education and Training Systems.

3.2 UNFF process, regional level implementation of the UNSPF:

On the UNFF process, the secretariat briefed FPN about the main developments and expected contribution of UNECE/FAO work to the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) 2017-2030. The Joint Section participated in the 13th session of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF13) (7-11 May 2018, New York, US). A side event on "Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia" was



held (7 May 2018) in preparation for the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration which took place 20-21 June 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The Joint Section participated in the Expert Meeting (EM) on Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to the UNFF (7-8 January 2019, Bangkok, Thailand). The Joint Section provided inputs to the UNFF call to provide regional and sub-regional contributions to the UNFF14 supporting its inputs to the HLPF 2019. It was agreed that there will be a one and half hour panel during UNFF14, which is dedicated to regional and sub-regional bodies.

In response to a request from UNFF in preparation for the 14th Session of the UN Forum on Forests in May 2019, and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development meetings in 2019, the Joint Section prepared a contribution on good practices, success stories and lessons learned on implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and the Global Forest Goals. The document includes an overview of the Joint Section's activities which contribute to the implementation of the Global Objectives on Forests and the SDGs.

3.3 Agenda 2030 process (Regional SDG Forum, HLPF 2018):

On the Agenda 2030 process, the secretariat briefed FPN about main developments and secretariat work. The Joint Section contributed to a peer-learning roundtable on “The Power of Knowledge for Change” during the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region in Geneva on 22 March 2019. As a side event to the Regional Forum and to celebrate the International Day of Forests 2019, a forest quiz was organised on 21 March 2019 in cooperation with the Government of Poland and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

The Joint Section prepared a policy brief on ECE forests and the SDGs for the 2018 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. The policy brief focuses on the ECE region and highlights how sustainably managed forests and the derived products are essential in achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030. It focuses on the SDGs under review in 2018, specifically, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7: Renewable Energy, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption, and SDG 15: Life on Land.

The Joint Section organised several activities during the HLPF 2018 (New York, USA, 9-18 July 2018) to illustrate the role forests play in the achievement of forest-related SDGs. These included (i) presentation of the “Made in Forests” movie at the opening of the High-Level Segment of the HLPF 2018; (ii) organization of the “Forest, Fashions and SDGs” evening reception and presentation of the movie; (iii) organization of a side event on “UN Partnership on Sustainable Fashion and the SDGs” and (iv) dissemination of a policy brief on the contributions of the forestry sector to the implementation of the SDGs, which was prepared by the Joint Section.



Brainstorming on the future structure of the ToS, specifically the question of “Whether ToS on Forest Policy Network should be merged with ToS on Forest Outlook Studies or should be kept separate body”

The secretariat informed FPN members about background of the secretariat proposals to merge ToS on Forest Policy Network with ToS on Forest Sector Outlook Studies. The secretariat stated that several factors were taken into consideration in developing the proposal which included lack of interest from member States and other partners, efficient use of financial and human resources, potential synergies with the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook, and forward-looking nature of both ToSs. He further mentioned that the ToS will report to the Working Party after the annual meeting and final decision about the merge will be given by the joint session of EFC/COFFI in November 2019.

The FPN discussed the issue based on the secretariat information and agreed with the secretariat proposal to merge the ToS on Forest Policy Network with ToS on Forest Sector Outlook Studies. FPN asked secretariat to keep FPN updated about developments.

Discussions on the Forest Policy Network 2019 work plan within the scope of WIPoW

It was agreed that FPN should continue to implement work program until the final decision of EFC/COFFI about merging the FPN with ToS Outlook Studies in November 2019. Team agreed to contribute to the following work areas and activities:

- Provide inputs and background document to the joint session of EFC/COFFI within the scope of **Forests and the Circular Economy – a contribution to the achievement of Global Forest Goal 2.**
- **Provide inputs to regional global forest policy processes** including UNFF14 and UNSPF, SGD, RSDF and HLPF 2019 and Forest Europe.
- **Stimulate sharing of experiences and best practices** among the FPN members regarding policy implementation at a national level.
- Support to the organization of two **national forest policy dialogue process** in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

Housekeeping and election of FPN leader/deputy leaders

Considering merging of ToS Forest Policy Network with ToS Outlook Studies in November 2019, it was agreed that existing team (Ms. Marta Gaworska, team leader, Mr Stefan Karlsson (Sweden) and Mr Tomas Krejzar (Czech Republic) deputy team leaders) should continue their work until the Joint Session of EFC/COFFI in November 2019. The FPN also requested the secretariat to inform them about the EFC/COFFI decisions.

The session was closed by the FPN deputy team leader.