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**REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES SINCE THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION
AND PROGRAMME OF WORK TO 2008**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document:

- (1) describes briefly the activities and outputs of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work on timber and forestry, including its teams of specialists, since October 2006, for information and review by the Committee; and
- (2) presents the integrated programme, as previously approved and the expected activities and outputs until end 2008, for guidance and endorsement by the Committee.

Normally the Committee would be asked to approve a programme of work for a period of four years: however in 2007/2008, the Strategic Review and Plan of the programme will take place, which will result in a programme of work for the period 2008-2013, so it is not appropriate to pre-judge its conclusions by making proposals for the period from 2009 onwards.

The Committee is invited to:

- (a) take note of the activities under the programme of work;
- (b) take note of the activities of teams of specialists;
- (c) provide guidance on all aspects of the programme of work; and
- (d) endorse the integrated programme of work to 2008 and the outputs planned for 2007-2008.

I. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED SINCE THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE AND PLANNED FOR 2007-2008

1. Listed below is an account of the activities undertaken since the sixty-fourth session of the UNECE Timber Committee and those planned for the period to end 2008. Delegations are invited to take note of the activities under each work area and provide guidance for upcoming activities. The UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work for the whole period 2005-2008 is presented in Annex 1.

2. The results to be achieved and relevant indicators for the biennium 2006-2007 have been determined in the context of the UN results based budgeting framework (Annex 2). At the end of each biennium, assessments of the results achieved and lessons learned are reported as accomplishment accounts and included in the UN Programme Performance Report. These accomplishment accounts for the biennium 2006-2007 will be prepared at the end of 2007; drafts will be presented to the Committee session.

A. Work area 1 - Markets and Statistics

3. Below are the activities undertaken under Work Area 1:

(a) Statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products for 2006. have been compiled, validated and disseminated via the TC/EFC website.

(b) Analysis of markets for forest products, notably topical and policy relevant aspects. The UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2006-2007 was completed and made available on the TC/EFC website. It is expected to be printed in August 2007 and disseminated before the joint TC and International Softwood Conference Market Discussions in October 2007.

(c) Capacity building activities for forest products marketing in countries in transition were undertaken. A seminar on Marketing in Forestry and Wood Processing was convened in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in December 2006, following up the earlier workshop in Novi Sad, Serbia in April 2006. A third regional marketing seminar will be held in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina in December 2007 with a focus on developing export markets and building business to business contacts with other European countries.

(d) Monitoring and analysis of markets for certified wood products was carried out and reviewed in a chapter of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review*. The chapter will be presented and developments discussed at the annual market discussions in October 2007.

(e) Cooperation on producing joint country market statements and forecasts was initiated in October 2006 at the International Softwood Conference in Canada. This successful venture will be repeated in 2007, and expanded to hold joint market discussions.

(f) A one-day, in-session Policy Forum on ‘Public procurement policies for wood and paper products and their impacts on sustainable forest management and timber

markets” was held on 5 October 2006 during the 64th session of the Committee. The proceedings of the Forum were published and available on the website.

(g) Forest fire statistics have been collected and are being published. A new round of collection will start following publication. This work is being carried out in close cooperation with the EU Joint Research Centre, Ispra.

B. Work area 2 - Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region

4. Below are the activities undertaken under Work Area 2:

(a) Indicators of sustainable forest management in the region. The secretariat in close cooperation with the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw elaborated and circulated the UNECE/FAO Enquiry for Data Collection and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in the Region which is the main information source for the MCPFE/UNECE/FAO Report: State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe in 2007. After completion of the data validation phase, the secretariat is playing a leading role in completing the study and takes responsibility for the final output with the Liaison Unit Warsaw.

(b) Regional contribution to the Global Forest Resource Assessment. The secretariat has participated actively, alongside experts and national correspondents in the process of preparing the Global FRA 2010, including the participation and contribution to the Global FRA Expert Consultation “Kotka-V” and the Global FRA Advisory Group. Support to development of national systems for forest monitoring is one of the activities of the team of specialists, and is carried out in cooperation with partners such as the EU COST Actions E 43 and E 27.

(c) A study on “Private Forest Ownership in Europe” has been completed and is being prepared for publication. Data are being made available on the UNECE/FAO website.

(d) The team of specialists on monitoring forest resources for sustainable forest management in the region not only guides regional FRA work but acts as an important forum for discussion of emerging technical and policy issues, such as monitoring climate change, biodiversity, or the system of forest types. It met in Edinburgh in May 2007.

C. Work area 3 - Sector outlook studies: analysis and follow-up

5. Below are the activities undertaken under Work Area 3:

(a) Implementation and follow up of the European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS). Discussion Paper European Forest Sector Outlook Study: Trends 2000-2005 Compared to the EFSOS Scenarios was prepared and issued in 2007.

(b) Discussion Paper International Forest Sector Institutions and Policy Instruments for Europe: A Source Book was published in summer 2006 and has been made available electronically.

(c) Sector policy aspects of increased use of wood energy, a preliminary study on the analysis of the volume for wood-energy production was prepared by a task force (consisting of representatives of FAO/Rome, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the EU and UNECE/FAO, and experts nominated by countries and other organizations) to collect data on wood energy in the region. The report provided valuable new estimates on the volume of wood used for energy, and is being published.

(d) A two-day seminar on energy and the forest products industry was held in October 2006 in FAO, Rome, Italy, under the joint auspices of FAO, IEA, CEPI and UNECE/FAO.

(e) A Workshop on Mobilizing the Forest Resource for Wood and Energy, under the auspices of MCPFE and UNECE/FAO, with other partners, was held in Geneva, in January 2007 and provided the basis for further work, notably a study on availability of wood for energy and raw material and the policy forum on the same topic in October 2007.

D. Work area 4 - Social and cultural aspects of forestry

6. Below are the activities undertaken under Work Area 4:

(a) The Joint FAO/ECE Experts Network for the Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management held the Second International Conference on Health and Safety in Forestry in May 2007.

(b) An expert meeting supported by FAO and ENFE was held in November 2006 to launch the Guidelines on Good Practices in Contract Labour in Forestry and to initiate its implementation.

E. Work area 5 - Policy and cross sectoral issues

7. Below are the activities undertaken under Work Area 5:

(a) Contribution to the regional dimension of the global dialogue is discussed at each session of the Committee and the Commission..

(b) Monitoring recent developments in policies and institutions. This topic is the main area of work of the newly created post in the UNECE Timber Section, and the methods are being developed. The qualitative indicators of sustainable forest management for the Warsaw report have been collected, in cooperation with the Liaison Unit. A communication and coordination mechanism with partners has been set up. Working together through the Inter-Secretariat Coordination Group on Monitoring Forest Policies and Institutions, UNECE, FAO and MCPFE are exploring synergies in the monitoring of policies and institutions at the regional level as well as globally and jointly work on developing a conceptual framework for a global information repository on policies and institutions.

(c) Trends in policies and institutions for the sector in CIS and South East Europe. The second session of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Support and

Contribution to Sustainable Development of the Forestry Sector in the CIS and South East Europe took place in May 2006 in Uzbekistan. The team is implementing the UNECE/FAO Strategy for the Forest Sector of Countries in the Region. The team, renamed Team of Specialists on the Contribution of Forests to Sustainable Development in Eastern Europe met last in Hungary in May 2007.

(d) The Timber Section is developing a workshop with Serbia in December 2007, ideally to be followed up with other workshops in countries in Southeast Europe, to focus on the role of wood energy and to promote wood as the fuel of choice in wooded regions.

(e) Publication of UNECE-FAO International Forest Fire News (IFFN). In 2007 two issues of UNECE/FAO *International Forest Fire News* are being published, a special issue on the Russian Federation and another on Southern Europe/Mediterranean countries.

(f) Sectoral and cross-sectoral communication, the secretariat cooperates with other UNECE bodies e.g. with the Environment and Sustainable Energy Divisions, adopting a code of conduct on payment for water related ecosystem services and developing proposals for financing relevant projects in the Balkan region under the EE21 investment fund "Financing Energy, respectively.

(g) The Forestry Communicators Network continued its activities, meeting in Spain in September 2006 and in Slovenia in October 2007.

(h) Preparation of forest and forest products country profiles which are published regularly. The forest and forest products country profile on Uzbekistan has been published and the one on Tajikistan is under preparation.

II. THE WORK OF THE TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

8. The Committee is invited to take note of the activities of the teams of specialists presented in Annex 3, and provide guidance where necessary.

III. INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE AND THE FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION, 2006-2008, AND PROGRAMME FOR 2007-2008

9. The Committee is expected to review implementation of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme over the last two years, and approve the programme for the period 2007 to 2008.

10. According to the modalities agreed at the Strategic Review, the programme for the period 2005 to 2008 need not be reviewed in detail by the Committee, as the strategic direction has been agreed for the period to 2008. A list of outputs planned for the period from October 2007 to October 2008 is presented in Annex 4.

11. The Committee is invited to approve its work programme for 2005-2008, set out in Annex 1 and take note of the list of planned outputs for 2007-2008 in Annex 4.

Annex 1**FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION AND UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE
INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FORESTS AND TIMBER, 2005 - 2008**

Work area 1 Markets and Statistics	
	Programme elements
1.1	Statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products
1.2	Analysis of markets for forest products, notably topical and policy relevant aspects
1.3	Capacity building for forest products marketing in countries in transition
1.4	Monitoring and analysis of markets for certified wood products
1.5	Statistics on forest fires
1.6	Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing
Work area 2 Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region	
	Programme elements
2.1	Indicators of sustainable forest management in the region
2.2	Regional contribution to global Forest Resource Assessment
2.3	Support to development of national systems for forest monitoring
2.4	Team of Specialists on Forest Resource Assessment and C&I for SFM
Work area 3 Sector outlook studies: analysis and follow-up	
	Programme elements
3.1	Implementation and follow up of European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) to be determined
3.2	Forest relevant cross-sectoral issues at the pan-European level
3.3	Sector policy aspects of increased use of wood energy
Work area 4 Social and cultural aspects of forestry	
	Programme elements
4.1	Role of women in forestry
4.2	The social dimension of sustainable forest management in Europe, e.g. safety and health aspects
4.3	Role of contractors
Work area 5 Policy and cross sectoral issues	
	Programme elements
5.1	Contribution to the regional dimension of the global dialogue
5.2	Monitoring recent developments in policies and institutions
5.3	Trends in policies and institutions for the sector in CIS and south east Europe
5.4	Trade and environment issues:
	5.4.1 – extent and cause of illegal logging and trade
5.5	Forest fires
5.6	Sectoral and cross-sectoral communication
5.7	Preparation of forest and forest products country profiles
	Team of Specialists on CIS/South East Europe

Annex 2
UN results-based budgeting framework
UN Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for the
timber sub-programme 2006-2007

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures:
(a) Increased understanding of sustainable forest management, notably the policies necessary to achieve it, based on increased ability to measure sustainable forest management at the national and regional levels	(i) Percentage of ECE countries with national forest programmes or similar holistic forest sector policy frameworks	Target 2006-2007: 50 per cent (Baseline: 16)
	(ii) Percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on indicators of sustainable forest management to the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe	Target 2006-2007: 60 per cent (Baseline: 35)
(b) Increased understanding of the sound use of wood, leading to policies to promote it and increased ability to monitor it	(i) Percentage of ECE countries with policies in place on sound use of wood, whether as part of national forest programmes or not	Target 2006-2007: 30 per cent (Baseline: 20)
	(ii) Percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory responses to the ECE/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/International Tropical Timber Organization/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire	Target 2006-2007: 80 per cent (Baseline: 72)
(c) Increased capacity of countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States and South-East Europe to achieve sustainable forest management at the national level, notably through developing appropriate policy measures	Increased number of the Commonwealth of Independent States and South-East European countries adopting national forest programmes	Target 2006-2007: 8 countries

Annex 3**ACTIVITIES OF TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS**

The sub-programme has seven teams of specialists. All were founded during the second strategic review in 2004 and have a termination date of 2008 (i.e. during the next strategic review). Their mandates were formally approved by the Committee and the European Forestry Commission in 2004 and are posted on the website. This Annex sets out the activities of the teams in 2006-2007.

1. TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST PRODUCTS MARKETS AND MARKETING (Work area 1)

In 2006 the Team held two meetings, the first meeting in conjunction with the Forest Products Society International Convention in Newport Beach, California, USA in June 2006 and the second at the time of the annual Timber Committee Market Discussions in October 2006. They participated in those discussions as both expert speakers, as well as active participants. They suggested the topic for the 2006 the TC and EFC policy forum in 2006 on “Public Procurement Policies for Wood and Paper Products and their impacts on sustainable forest management.” They presented a study at the Forum on “Market Effects of Public Procurement Policies for Wood and Paper Products in the UNECE Region.” The Team’s work is conducted by two subgroups: Responsible Trade and Market Intelligence. In 2007 the Team was accomplishing its mandate through work on: exchange of forest products marketing information via their network, website, workshops and meetings; green building, i.e. minimizing environmental impacts in construction, and linking it to the Kyoto Protocol; study of supply and demand balance for wood energy, wood processing and forest resources; marketing capacity building in the Balkan region and the CIS; establishing a forest products marketing distance learning website; etc. Its mandate includes providing guidance to the TC and EFC on market-related issues, and it accomplishes that through active participation in the annual TC Market Discussions. In 2007, 23 members of the Team were authors of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review*. The Team is scheduled to participate again in the 2007 Market Discussions and Policy Forum, and to meet at that occasion, on 11-12 October 2007.

2. TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON MONITORING FOREST RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE UNECE REGION (Work area 2)

The Team’s main objective is to advise to the UNECE/FAO and FAO secretariats on the implementation of activities in the work area “*Forest Resources Assessment and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in the Region*”. The team contributes to monitoring temperate and boreal forests and, in particular, to the coordination of reporting on Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) within the MCPFE processes. It sets up contacts on the C&I reporting procedures with the Montreal process.

The Team held meetings in Geneva, April 2005; Hamburg, May 2006; and Edinburgh, May 2007. The 3rd meeting in Edinburgh overviewed the ToS activities, including the collection, validation and processing data and information on the pan-European quantitative and qualitative indicators for SFM, contribution to the elaboration of the MCPFE-2007 Report on SFM in

Europe, follow-up to the global FRA Expert Consultation “Kotka-V”, and the collection of data for the study on “Private Forest Ownership in Europe”.

The Team defined the future work, which will focus mainly on the regional contribution to the preparation and implementation of the global FRA 2010, follow-up to the relating decisions of the Ministerial Conference (MCPFE-2007), and continuation of the support to the development of national systems of forest monitoring, mainly through EU COST Action E 43. The next ToS meeting is scheduled to be held in Austria, in May-June 2008. Additionally to the above topics, the Team will address the issues of support and contribution to the institutional cooperation on monitoring of forests, incl., MCPFE, ENFIN, EU LIFE +, as well as contribution to the Montreal and MCPFE processes in possible coordination / harmonization of the countries’ C&I for SFM reporting.

3. TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON GENDER AND FORESTRY (Work area 4)

The Team held its first meeting in April 2004 at FAO, and since then has met four times. The team consists of fifteen members from academia, forest owners’ associations, private sector, government and FAO. At its first meeting the group decided on the following three areas of work: Gender structures in forestry organizations; gender structures in forest ownership; and, gender and the perceptions of forests. Draft reports on the above three areas were presented at a meeting held at FAO on 30-31 March 2006. The final report *Time for Action: Changing the Gender Situation in Forestry* addresses the three areas mentioned above, as well as indicators and monitoring, and presents conclusions and recommendations.

An International Seminar on Gender and Forestry took place in June 2006 in Umea, Sweden, hosted by the Faculty of Forest Sciences, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and supported by UNECE and FAO.

With the completion of the report as the team’s major output, to “raise awareness of gender structures and forestry and use this information to promote good and equal opportunities for men and women in the sector”, the team’s mandate has been completed.

4. TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON BEST PRACTICES IN FOREST CONTRACTING (Work area 4)

The team members represent forest owners, forest industries, forest research, trade union and forest contractors. The main objective of the team is to develop guidelines on “Good Practices in Contract Labour in Forestry”, present case studies, develop training material and organize a seminar on good practices in contract work in forestry.

The team met for the first time in May 2004 in Rome to agree on a work structure and to assign tasks and responsibilities to the team members. At meetings held in conjunction with other international meetings and workshops in Warsaw (December 2004), Jönköping (June 2005) and Krakow (September 2005) work progress was discussed and technical issues solved. A final expert meeting supported by FAO and ENFE was held in 2006 to launch the Guidelines and to initiate the implementation. The team’s mandate has been accomplished.

5. TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE (Work area 5)

The Team of Specialists on Support and Contribution to Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector in Central and Eastern Europe and in the CIS held its first meeting in Budapest, Hungary in November 2005. The Team was constituted on the basis of official nominations by 27 member countries and 5 international organizations. Further meetings were held in Tashkent/Samarkand, Uzbekistan in April 2006 and in Zamardi/Hungary in May 2007. In 2007, the Team was renamed to "Team of Specialists on the Contribution of Forests to Sustainable Development in Eastern Europe".

During several meetings, held over the past two years, the Team contributed to the elaboration of the FAO/UNECE Strategy on Forestry and Timber Activities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, proposed programme elements and prioritized expected outcomes. It agreed to focus its own work on forest management policies and institutions, and contributed to information exchange and capacity building in this field. Mechanisms for the financing of public services have been studied and disseminated through the Team of Specialists web page. The Team works on solutions for maintaining a database on forestry projects in Eastern Europe (H3 database). It also contributes actively to the gathering and dissemination of harmonized information on national forest policies and institutions. A paper on "Forest Policies and Institutions in Eastern Europe" is planned to be elaborated through the assistance the team members by mid 2008.

6. TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST FIRE (Work area 5)

Between October 2004 and March 2006 the team concentrated its work on the follow-up of the UNECE/FAO Conference on "Forest Fire Management and International Cooperation in Fire Emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean, Balkans and adjoining Regions of the Near East and Central Asia" (Antalya, Turkey, 30 March - 3 April 2004) and the consolidation of the UNISDR Regional Wildland Fire Networks that are being built in the UNECE region (Baltic, Southeast Europe, Mediterranean, Central Asia). See EFC paper "Cooperation and networking on forest fires, with a focus on the Balkan and Mediterranean areas". Most important was the regional consultation in the FYR of Macedonia in 2005 where members of the Balkan Network decided to invite neighbouring countries and to expand its area of joint activities to Southeast Europe. The consultation was followed by the first regional wildland fire exercise "Eastern European, Near East and Central Asian States Exercise on Wildland Fire Information and Resources Exchange - EASTEX FIRE 2005" which was a direct follow-up of the Antalya conference.

The coordinator of the team continued to produce UNECE-FAO International Forest Fire News (IFFN).

The team participated in the sessions of COFO-17 and the Ministerial Meeting on Forests (March 2005) and is currently working for the FAO to implement the recommendations of these meetings, i.e., the development of a Fire Management Code and a Strategy for Enhancing International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management. The team provided support to the FAO Expert Consultation on Wildland Fire (Madrid, Spain, 10-12 May 2006). At the EFC meeting the team presented a proposal for the development of a "Regional Strategy for Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management in Southeast Europe".

7. FOREST COMMUNICATORS NETWORK (FCN) (Work area 5)

Met in Sofia, Bulgaria, in June 2004, in Poland in October 2005, and Spain in 2006. The Network elaborated a first outline for an international event on communication in forest sector policy, which according to the mandate is to be conducted by 2008. A subgroup was established to start work on guidelines on best practices in forest communications. The second part of a study, based on an enquiry, on consumer attitudes, which will specifically focus on the public perceptions concerning forest products and the forest industry is underway. The next meeting will be held in Slovenia in 2007. FCN members helped the secretariat to develop its own communication strategy and will contribute to preparation of the Pan-European Forestry Week.

Annex 4

List of outputs, from October 2007 to end 2008

1. Work area 1 - Markets and Statistics

- (a) Statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products for 2007 (collection, validation, publication)
- (b) Meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing, 2 October 2007, Geneva
- (c) Joint UNECE/FAO Policy Forum on “Opportunities and Impacts of Bio-energy Policies and Targets on the Forest and Other Sectors”, 10 October 2007, with proceedings to be published as Discussion Paper
- (d) Capacity building workshop targeting the wood processing sector, December 2006, Croatia
- (e) Follow up workshop to the Building Capacity for Sharing Forest and Market Information, Krtiny, Czech Republic, 2007
- (f) *UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2007- 2008*
- (g) Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics, 2008
- (h) UNECE Timber Committee Market Discussions, October 2008

2. Work area 2 - Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region

- (a) Publication on private forest ownership in Europe
- (b) Database of the pan-European quantitative indicators of SFM
- (c) *Report on State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007* (for the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe)

3. Work area 3 - Sector outlook studies: analysis and follow-up

- (a) Publication on wood energy in Europe and North America
- (b) Study on supply and demand for wood for raw material and energy, based on background paper for policy forum

4. Work area 4 - Social and cultural aspects of forestry

- (a) Implementation of the Guidelines on Good Practices in Contract Labour in Forestry

5. Work area 5 - Policy and cross sectoral issues

- (a) Publication of two issues per year of “UNECE/FAO International Forest Fire News”
- (b) Trends in policies and institutions for the sector in CIS and south-east Europe. Workshops are planned for 2007
- (c) Publication of forest and forest products country profiles on Tajikistan and another country

- (d) Information repository on policies and institutions in Europe, comprising the pan-European qualitative indicators for sustainable forest management (pilot version)
- (e) Publication on policies and institutions in Eastern Europe, the CIS and Central Asia (ToS on the CIS and South East Europe)

6. Sessions of intergovernmental bodies

- (a) Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, Thirtieth session, Geneva, 2008
- (b) Pan European Forest Week including the Joint Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission session, possibly with MCPFE and other partners, probably Rome 2008