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**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party
on Forest Economics and Statistics****Thirty-third session**

Geneva, 23-24 March 2011

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda

Food and Agriculture Organization

European Forestry Commission

**Report of the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest
Economics and Statistics on its thirty-third session****I. Attendance**

1. The Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics held its thirty-third session in Geneva from 23–24 March 2011. The session was attended by delegates from the following countries: Austria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.
2. Representatives of the European Commission, the Joint Research Centre and the European Environment Agency attended the session.
3. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organization were in attendance: European Forest Institute (EFI).
4. A representative of the following non-governmental organization also attended the session: European Panel Federation (EPF).

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

5. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda.

III. Consideration of the outcome of the “zero meeting” and implications for the Working Party (agenda item 2)

6. Mr. Heikki Granholm (Finland) delivered the report of the "zero meeting" on a possible Working Party to facilitate exchange of expert advice based on the work of UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists, which he chaired on the previous day (see annex I).

7. Some delegations stressed the importance of the statistical work undertaken by the current Working Party and wished to have this reflected in any new name of the Working Party.

8. After a brief exchange, the Working Party concluded the item by welcoming the report and decided to transmit it to the joint Timber Committee (TC)/European Forestry Commission (EFC) meeting to be held in Antalya, Turkey, from 10 to 14 October 2011.

IV. Guidance of work area 1: Markets and Statistics (agenda item 3 (a))

9. The Working Party was briefed on the work accomplished and planned for work area 1, including an analysis of markets for forest products, capacity-building for forest products marketing, monitoring and analysis of markets, policies for certified wood products (including public procurement), and green building.

10. The UNECE/FAO *Forest Products Annual Market Review* is one basis for the Timber Committee Market Discussions. Its foundation is the annual statistics from country correspondents. The Working Party noted the need for countries to provide responses to the annual Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) by the 16 May 2011 deadline. Other inputs to the Discussions are country market statements and forecasts. The Working Party learned that submissions had decreased over the past few years and therefore urged all countries to contribute reports and forecasts. Countries' statistics, forecasts and reports are vital for market analyses performed by the secretariat, as well as many additional users.

11. In 2010, the Market Discussions were conducted jointly with the Society of Wood Science and Technology and included interactive broadcasting via the internet (webinar). The Working Party suggested repeating the experience, should funds be available.

12. The secretariat reminded delegations of the importance of extrabudgetary funds in support of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review* in order to maintain the quality of the past years and requested delegations to consider funding this publication.

13. Dr. Branko Glavonjic (Serbia), Deputy Leader of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing, and Vice-Chair of the Timber Committee, presented the Team's annual report. The Team held a number of technical and business meetings with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Forest Products Marketing Group, and has planned additional joint meetings to benefit from this collaboration. The Team held two capacity-building workshops in 2010, and plans another in Slovenia in 2011, pending sufficient funding. The workshops were possible thanks to sponsorships and contributions in-kind from countries, trade associations and organizations. Together with the IUFRO Group, the Team is creating a repository of marketing-related databases to be presented at their joint workshop in June 2011 in Portland, Oregon, United States of America.

14. The Team, as requested by the Timber Committee, is conducting a workshop (Brussels, 13 April 2011) on the impacts of legislation against illegal logging on the timber trade. The workshop title is “Does banning illegal logging rule out wood? Implications of recent trade legislation within the UNECE region for the forest-based sector”. Delegations were encouraged to participate and to disseminate the announcement¹.

15. The Working Party encouraged the secretariat to continue to report on the fight against illegal logging and the trade of illegal timber. It noted that other subjects worth analysing are:

- (a) Competition for wood resources between industrial uses and energy uses;
- (b) Mobilization of more wood resources for both;
- (c) Procurement policies;
- (d) Increased timber utilization.

16. On statistical work, the secretariat was requested to provide countries with an overview of data requests in the forest sector. In response to data problems during the year, faster updating of published data was also requested.

17. Delegations reiterated their general support for the statistical work and underlined the fact that it formed the basis of work in other areas. They expressed their support for the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ). EFI presented first outcomes of the feasibility study on improving forest products price information. Delegations are asked to provide input and express their views on the desirability and utility of a possible price database. Comments can be provided directly to the secretariat.

18. The Working Party expressed support for the proposal in document 3c.1² for UNECE to participate in and contribute to the UNEP Sustainable Building Climate Initiative and to join forces with other United Nations entities whenever possible, on this and other relevant topics.

V. Guidance of work area 2: Forest Resources Assessment (agenda item 3 (b))

19. Before this agenda item was addressed, the representative of FAO presented an FAO toolkit developed on the occasion of the International Year of Forests to assist countries with their campaign. The toolkit is available at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/iyf2011/68425/en/>

20. Work done in the past year was presented by Simon Gillam (UK), Leader of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management. He pointed out that the Team had not been able to pursue the qualitative work element (policy and cross-sectoral) and informed the Working Party that the mandate had been revised by the Timber Committee to exclude this aspect. The Team had one meeting since the last Joint Working Party session; the meeting was exclusively devoted to pan-European reporting. The Team members had participated in a remote sensing survey led by FAO and a Forest Types meeting in Bordeaux. A team meeting was planned for late 2011 or early 2012 in North America and would address issues of interest to the whole region. He noted limited expertise with some socio-economic indicators and limited progress in improving reporting from some countries.

¹ <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=334>

² http://timber.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/meetings/20110321/3c_1.pdf

21. The Working Party welcomed the report and expressed warm thanks to Mr. Gillam for his devotion and leadership. It also welcomed the new Leader of the Team, Kari Korhonen (Finland) and Deputy Leader Johannes Hangler (Austria).

22. The secretariat informed the Working Party of recent outputs from the Main Report of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2010 and informed the Working Party about expected outputs and plans related to the FRA programme. Consultations on the future of the programme would be carried out by FAO regional forestry commissions. The Working Party was informed about the developments of the State of Europe's Forests (SoEF) report. The report was in its final phase and would be presented at the June 2011 Forest Europe Ministerial Conference in Oslo. A delegation pointed out the importance of dissemination and integrating the launching of the report with the International Year of Forests, as well as the need for more work on making the results better known, especially outside the forest sector.

23. The Working Party welcomed progress on harmonization of FRA, SoEF and other sources and indicated that further work should be undertaken, in particular in relation to socioeconomic indicators. The Integrated Economic and Environmental Accounting for Forests (IEEAF) could also be used as a possible source of employment and carbon storage data.

24. A presentation was made on an experimental approach for assessing sustainable forest management (SFM) in the SoEF report. The approach builds on the criteria and indicators concept and fully relies on data provided by national correspondents. The approach is intended to simplify the assessment of SFM implementation, with due regard to accuracy, and to make results more accessible to policy makers.

25. Delegations raised some concerns regarding applied parameters and asked for more information on the methodology, including differences between the methodologies applied to 2007 and 2011 SoEF reports. The delegates supported the publication of the results at a subregional level in SoEF 2011 and the idea of having country-level assessments provided to the respective national correspondents upon request. Delegations also supported the continuation of work on this approach, possibly through the Team of Specialists, as they see potential in this tool for improving reporting and assessing SFM.

26. The Working Party was informed about the results on the process of refinement and application of European Forest Types.

VI. Guidance of Work Area 3: Forest Sector Outlook Studies (agenda item 3 (c))

27. The Working Party reviewed progress on the Forest Sector Outlook work. It noted that work progressed in all UNECE regions, as follows:

North American Forest Sector Outlook Study

28. The North American Forest Sector Outlook Study (NAFSOS) was well advanced and the Working Party reviewed preliminary results. NAFSOS would take account of policy developments such as ongoing restructuring in response to the recession, leading to an unprecedented decline in capacity and the promotion of the bioenergy sector.

29. The Working Party enquired about projection results with regard to the developments of pulp, paperboard and tissue paper as well as newsprint in the United States of America. The study leader explained that whereas newsprint showed a decline, certainly due to the influence of electronic media, total paper consumption was projected to increase.

The Working Party was also interested in the price projections which are flat and declining, primarily due to the generally rising forest stock and the amount of imports from Canada, China and other countries.

30. The Working Party would be informed of final results at the joint TC/EFC session in Antalya, 10-14 October 2011. The North American Forest Sector Outlook Study would be published in spring 2012.

European Forest Sector Outlook Study

31. The Working Party was informed of progress on the European Forest Sector Outlook Study by Mart-Jan Schelhaas (Netherlands), Leader of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook. They noted the innovative approach of the study, which addresses issues linked to climate change, energy, innovation and competitiveness while combining a variety of different methods. Two different Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reference futures (A1 and B2) form two distinct baseline scenarios. Four policy scenarios then highlight the results of policy choices ranging from maximizing carbon stock to promoting wood energy, biodiversity and fostering innovation.

32. The Working Party was informed that the substitution effect of wood for other non-renewable materials was not included in the "Maximizing carbon sequestration" scenario, due to the non-availability of models to fully take account of this issue. There was interest in the way the study addressed bioenergy, through future projections of supply and demand for wood to meet the targets set by policy makers within the EU and some countries in Eastern Europe. The team leader explained that while bioenergy was not included in the market models, it was included in the global trade model, to the extent feasible. Prices are a result of the global trade model and would be present in the final EFSOS outcome.

33. The Working Party stressed the importance of informing country correspondents of the study assumptions and involving them in the review of the results on supply, demand and trade of wood products and biomass. In addition, the results of the competitiveness analysis, the forest resource projections, and the wood resource balance should be circulated for review. The delegations were informed that country correspondents have been provided with quantitative results, which would be presented at the Team of Specialists meeting on 25 March 2011. They would have the chance to review and provide comments on all quantitative results until the end of April 2011. After the finalization of modelling results, drafting and analysis would be undertaken until July 2011. The final study would be published in time to present it at the joint UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission session in October 2011.

34. The secretariat acknowledged countries and other project teams for their financial and in-kind contributions, in particular from Switzerland, Sweden (ForestFuture project), Germany (competitiveness analysis) and the EU (EUwood project). The secretariat thanked country correspondents for their involvement and review, and the Working Party for its guidance.

Russian Forest Sector Outlook Study

35. The Working Party was presented with the proposed approach and methods for a Russian Forest Sector Outlook Study (prepared by the FAO and UNECE secretariats). It welcomed the approach of having the study be compatible, to the extent possible, with the North American and European studies. The study would address major policy issues ranging from the outlook in forest products markets and trade, to forest fires, illegal logging, climate change and environmental considerations.

36. An international core group of Russian and foreign experts was expected to lead the work. The Working Party proposed that the outlook team discuss the major policy issues to be addressed by the study with Russian forest sector policy makers. The Working Party enquired about assumptions and projections on timber trade and on industrial production capacity developments. It was foreseen that the study would contain a baseline and an innovation scenario. The latter would also project forest investments and include assumptions with regard to increased domestic wood-processing. It was also foreseen that most of the modelling work would be conducted during 2011 and that the study would be completed in 2012.

VII. Guidance of work area 4: Social and Cultural (agenda item 3 (d))

37. The Working Party was briefed on the activities planned for Work Area 4, in particular on the programme and priorities for 2011 of the Joint Expert Network (JEN) to Implement Sustainable Forest Management, including a series of meeting (see document 4³ by the secretariat). Priorities for the network were presented, as contained on the background note.

38. The Working Party expressed support for the proposed priorities and stressed the need for training qualified operators in forestry, especially to ensure the contribution of woody biomass in reaching renewable energy targets.

39. The lack of adequate detail on labour in forestry should be addressed with modalities to be determined, although it was noted the Eurostat Labour Force Survey provides some useful data.

40. The Working Party recommended that the JEN should note that certification of vocational competence is distinctly different from certification of sustainable forest management (in order to avoid confusion).

41. The secretariat also informed the Working Party about the ongoing data collection for the new edition of "Profession, Skills and Training in Forestry", which was first published in 1996.

VIII. Guidance of work area 5: policy and cross-sectoral (agenda item 3 (e))

42. The Working Party was informed of the work accomplished in the different programme elements of work area 5. The involvement of the secretariat in the global dialogue on forests was highlighted, for instance through active participation in the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests or through the preparation of the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy (to be submitted to the next Joint TC/EFC session in Antalya). The latter, in particular, could be an important contribution of the forest sector to the Rio +20 process.

43. Capacity-building is considered a crucial element of this work area. Funds for these activities are, nevertheless, limited and participants were kindly requested to explore funding possibilities.

³ <http://timber.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/meetings/20110321/4.pdf>

44. The Working Party also reviewed the activities of three UNECE/FAO teams of specialists: the Forest Communicators Network (FCN), the Team of Specialists on Forest Fire and the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA).

45. The secretariat presented the report of the FCN, which includes the establishment of a communication strategy by April 2011. The FCN has been developing key messages about forestry in Europe and the sustainability of wood products. These were brought to the attention of the Working Party and are available online for communication and other purposes.

46. Dr. Johann Georg Goldammer (Germany), Leader of the Team of Specialists on Forest Fires, reported on the work of the Team and discussed international cooperation in fire management. The Team Leader stated that the Team was very interested in cooperating with other Teams of Specialists, particularly on Forest Policy in EECA.

47. The Team Leader underlined that transboundary cooperation in wildfire management was often limited by the lack of common protocols, rules of engagement or guidelines. However, exchanges which took place at the international meeting on Cross-boundary Fire Management (Irkutsk, Russian Federation, 16-18 June 2010) had allowed a swift response from neighbouring countries during the fires last year in the Russian Federation.

48. Dr. Goldammer announced that there will be a UNECE/FAO "Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management" (to be held in Geneva at the end of 2011), which will build on the results of past conferences, such as WildFire 2011 (5th International Wildland Fire Conference, 9-13 May 2011 in Sun City, South Africa).

49. In response to a request from the floor on the impact of forest fire on the European Forest Sector Outlook study scenarios, he pointed to the Foresight Study⁴ of the United Kingdom Government Office for Science (with outlooks done for 2030 and 2060) as an upcoming source of information.

50. Ms. Jana Jovanovska (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Deputy Team Leader of the Team of Specialists on Forest policy in EECA, presented their membership roster, mandate and objectives. She described the work accomplished and lessons learned, as well as proposals for future activities as set by member states.

51. Exchanges of experiences play an important role in the functioning of the Team. Reports were prepared and shared on forest policy success stories, as a basis for possible bilateral cooperation activities. In addition, English and Russian terms and definitions had been discussed with the objective of developing a forest policy glossary.

52. The Deputy Team Leader stressed that funding for National Forest Programme implementation remains the principal challenge for countries in transition. She pointed out that the EFC, at its 35th session, requested the continuation of a Team of Specialists addressing the needs of EECA countries with regard to the implementation of SFM and climate change.

⁴ Foresight Global Environmental Migration Project - Specification for a State of Science Review: Wildland Fires, <http://www.bis.gov.uk/foresight/our-work/projects/current-projects/global-environmental-migration>. Also see White Paper "Vegetation Fires and Global Change" available from Global Fire Monitoring Center (in preparation, http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/about4_2010-Dateien/COP-16-Climate-Change-Wildfire-Flyer-GFMC.pdf).

IX. Status of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2009 (agenda item 4 of the agenda)

53. The preliminary results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) were presented by the secretariat. The secretariat expressed its gratitude for the replies provided by countries and also for the significant input provided by a number of correspondents in troubleshooting and improving the worksheet programming. Countries that have not yet provided replies to the Enquiry were invited to do so by the end of April. The secretariat also informed delegates of the project timeline and the challenges encountered in the development and dissemination of the enquiry.

54. The JWEE was described as a necessary and useful tool. Delegates highlighted the issue of comparability of data from 2009 with that of previous JWEE rounds. They pointed out that the differences might not only be attributable to changes in the consumption of wood for energy, but also linked to changes in national data collection methodologies. This should be pointed out when publishing any country data. The secretariat was requested to ask national correspondents to explain changes in wood energy consumption from previous years, including any underlying changes in methodology.

55. It was noted that the JWEE was a collection of statistics and could not be used to collect policy-related information.

56. Delegations also mentioned the need for more guidance from the secretariat on how to fill the complex Enquiry, providing a list of changes to the worksheet, and the need for receiving the validated data accompanied with figures made available from the International Energy Agency (IEA) and other institutions.

57. Other matters of a technical nature were raised by a number of delegations and addressed by the secretariat on a bilateral basis. The secretariat offered the possibility of organizing a workshop to facilitate the preparation of the JWEE and some delegations supported this.

58. The secretariat also provided a brief, informal overview of the current and potential role of wood energy in the national renewable energy policies of member States in the UNECE region. Information collected was based on national renewable energy strategies such as the National Renewable Energy Action Plans for the EU-27 countries.

X. Roundtable on Forest Information Challenges (agenda item 5)

59. The panel was moderated by Peter Csoka (FAO) and composed of Csaba Mozes (Eurostat), Simon Gillam (United Kingdom), Richard Fischer (ICP Forests), Angelo Mariano (Italy), Jesus San Miguel Ayanz (JRC), and Aljoscha Requardt (EFI).

60. The roundtable discussed the main obstacles to enhanced cooperation on international data collection in Europe, and opportunities to improve coordination.

61. The panelists highlighted a number of hurdles: the lack of data harmonization, timing aspects, differences in definitions, the need for sharing information between different correspondents reporting to different processes, lack of knowledge of data systems used in other processes, different mandates and sometimes even competition between organizations. The panel identified the lack of a proper forum for discussing the reporting process, including information collection and validation of national policies, regulatory frameworks, and instruments of forest policy, as well as a general lack of expertise in this area.

62. Several ideas for improvement were mentioned, including: using the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG) format as a successful example to enhance cooperation and harmonization, building on existing ToS or creating a new network (e.g. network of secretariats and ToS leaders) to facilitate communication among organizations. Furthermore, the panel stressed the importance of tapping into the yet unexplored potential of work on harmonization of definitions. There was still potential for improving communication among organizations, especially for sharing of information in a timely manner. Alternative solutions to meetings in person (e.g. e-meetings) were mentioned. The importance of keeping countries involved in any new activity/process was also underlined.

63. Maintaining and strengthening existing cooperation was supported. However, there were different views on the form this cooperation could take. Two options were considered, i.e. the extension of the role of the existing ToS or the establishment of a new network. The panelists agreed that the main focus of this work should be improved harmonization leading to a reduced reporting burden, with due regard to cost implications and maximizing the use of existing data collection processes to avoid duplication.

64. The panel identified several problems in cooperation among organizations and came up with proposals for improving this. Contributions from the panel are worth analysing for identifying ways for future cooperation. The secretariat was therefore requested to prepare a note incorporating the results of the panel discussion, which would include proposals for the modalities of future work.

XI. Other business (agenda item 6)

65. The dates for the next meeting of the Working Party were tentatively established as 26-30 March 2012 in Geneva.

XII. Election of officers (agenda item 7)

66. The Working Party re-elected Mr. Angelo Mariano (Italy) as Chair and Mr. Mati Valgepea (Estonia) and Ms. Elina Maki-Simola (Finland) as Vice-chairs to hold office through the end of the thirty-fourth session.

XIII. Adoption of the report (agenda item 8)

67. The Working Party adopted the report (with changes), based on a draft by the secretariat, through sections I-VI and IX. The remainder of the report was adopted by the Bureau immediately after the Working Party session.

Annex

Meeting on a possible Working Party to facilitate exchange of expert advice based on the work of UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists

(“zero meeting”)

Report

I. Background

1. At its sixty-eighth session, the UNECE Timber Committee discussed the possible establishment of a joint UNECE/FAO working party to facilitate the exchange of expert advice as a subsidiary body. This was based on a proposal developed jointly by the members of the bureaux of the UNECE Timber Committee (TC), the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and leaders of the teams of specialists (ToS). The proposal was developed with the aim of enabling the expert, technical and policy levels to be linked and to provide a means for exchanges among them. The reasoning behind this is that, too often, technical advice provided by the teams of specialists does not reach other decision-making levels, thereby weakening the potential role of the teams. The proposed Working Party (WP) could also provide expert advice on emerging and technical issues to both the Committee and the Commission.

2. The delegations to the sixty-eighth session acknowledged the need to make better use of the expertise of the teams of specialists and to ensure that their work is fully acknowledged and used to enhance the work of relevant technical and UNECE and FAO policy bodies in the region. Thus, the Committee agreed to elaborate on the proposal and submit it for consideration at the joint session with the European Forestry Commission, to be held from 10 to 14 October 2011 in Antalya, Turkey. In order to do so, it decided to hold a “zero meeting” of the proposed joint UNECE/FAO Working Party in conjunction with the next meeting of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (WPFES). It was requested that this meeting:

- (a) Consider a name for the Working Party;
- (b) Develop draft terms of reference;
- (c) Discuss resource implications and reporting lines for the teams of specialists.

3. At their meeting on 15 October, following the session of the Committee, the joint TC/EFC bureaux reiterated the above points and also stressed that to encourage enhanced coordination across teams, all heads of delegations, as well as the members of the teams of specialists, should be invited to the “zero meeting”. The bureaux also suggested that the meeting should allow time for simulating the possible working modalities of the proposed Working Party.

4. The zero meeting on a possible working party to facilitate exchange of expert advice was thus held on 22 March 2011 to:

- (a) conduct an informal discussion between ToS leaders, TC and EFC delegates, and develop some concrete recommendations for the consideration of the WPFES on how to enhance the work of ToS and facilitate exchange of information among ToS. The discussion was guided by a series of questions and a background paper prepared by the Secretariat (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2011/2.2);

(b) identify ways to facilitate exchange of information and advice between ToS and their parent bodies through the possible establishment of a new Working Party, or the extension of the WPFES mandate. The discussion was guided by a background paper prepared by the Secretariat (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2011/2.3).

5. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Heikki Granholm (Finland). The Chair called for active delegate participation in an open and informal exchange. The agenda was adopted as set out in document ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2011/2.1.

II. Discussion on Team of Specialists priorities and recommendations to the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission (agenda item 2)

6. Following a brief introduction of their respective Teams, ToS Leaders were asked to identify which of the priority areas listed in ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2011/2.2 were shared by their Team, and provide details on how they are addressed. Table I summarizes the ToS priorities.

7. Additional priorities mentioned by some ToS included:

(a) Forest health and forest damage (pests and diseases, fire, storms, etc);

(b) Recognising the value of trees outside forests, particularly in towns, for climate change adaptation, for wood energy and for recreation;

8. And, specifically for Eastern Europe and Central Asia:

(a) National Forest Programmes, including challenges in their implementation and their role in national sustainable development strategies;

(b) Legal and institutional reforms;

(c) Research capacities and the science-policy interface;

(d) Biodiversity, desertification and degraded land.

	<i>Monitoring SFM</i>	<i>Forest Policy in E. Europe and C. Asia</i>	<i>Forest Sector Outlook</i>	<i>Forest Fire</i>	<i>Joint Expert Network to implement SFM</i>	<i>Forest Comm. Network</i>	<i>Forest Products Marketing</i>
Climate Change	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Energy and Material Use			x	x	x		x
Forest Sector Competitiveness			x	(x)	x		x
Land and fire management				x			
Communication	x	x		(x)	x	x	
Ownership, Property rights		x	x	x			
Illegal logging and trade		x	x	x			x

Green building			x	(x)		X
Green economy			x	x		x
Non-wood Products and Services	x		x			x
Capacity Building	x	x		x	x	x

Table I: ToS priorities

9. The ToS Leaders then addressed the issue of cooperation, and how they could benefit from or contribute to the work of other ToS. The majority of ToS expressed the need and willingness to collaborate with the Forest Communicators Network in order to better package and disseminate their outputs. Specific opportunities for cooperation were also highlighted, which included:

(a) Work on the impact of climate change on forest work undertaken by the ECE/FAO/ILO Joint Expert Network to implement SFM;

(b) Illegal logging and timber trade undertaken by the ToS on Forest Products Marketing;

(c) How the Outlook ToS could benefit from the advice of the ToS on Monitoring SFM on the definition of sustainability scenarios as well as from data on forest products trade and statistics from the ToS on Forest Products Marketing;

(d) Opportunities for capacity building activities namely on forest fires, forest assessment and marketing (especially within the ToS on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia).

10. Meeting participants then considered ways and means for the Secretariat to better assist ToS work, enlarge membership, and improve participation.

11. The meeting endorsed the recommendations contained in ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2011/2.2 reproduced hereunder, which were the outcome of consultations with ToS, and elaborated further on a number of points.

(a) Cooperation and exchange of information among the ToS seems somewhat limited. The newsletter was proposed as a medium for sharing ToS activities and calls for contributions. On the other hand, several ToS already cooperate with other external organizations. As a matter of fact, many ToS members hail from a wide range of forest-related organisations and institutions.

(b) Coherence and compatibility among ToS is necessary. The secretariat has a fundamental role in the coordination of ToS activities and should ensure complementarity of the projects and publications managed by the ToS. Coherence between reporting for global and regional processes is called for. Similarly, there should be consistency across different reporting requirements on topics such as forest resources, greenhouse gas inventories, renewable energy and trade statistics. Combining inputs increases impact while avoiding duplication of work.

(c) Continued support by the UNECE/FAO secretariat is perceived as crucial. For instance, the secretariat's assistance in the provision of meeting facilities and publishing resources is considered helpful in facilitating the work of the ToS. Administrative requirements for ToS should be kept to a minimum.

(d) ToS membership and networks should ensure the participation of a wider range of countries. The geographical scope of the UNECE is very wide and an inclusive approach should be fostered. The secretariat and its network of national correspondents should assist in this process.

12. As a result of the discussion, the Secretariat was requested to:

(a) Better coordinate cooperation between teams of Specialists by identifying emerging issues and sharing information among ToS and from parent bodies;

(b) Assist ToS in the identification of financial support to implement activities in their programme of work as approved by MS;

(c) Harmonize and update ToS webpages including calendar of activities, reports;

(d) Make better use of the newsletter as channel of information among ToS and also to reach a wider audience.

13. On membership matters, it was suggested that the Secretariat:

(a) Regularly update the membership lists through an official nomination procedure as appropriate;

(b) Inform governments on the contributions of ToS to the implementation of the Programme of Work, also through relevant official correspondence.

14. In order to facilitate member participation in relevant meetings, while reducing costs, it was suggested to hold ToS meetings back to back with other relevant forest related meetings. To foster exchanges amongst ToS and also reduce costs, it was also suggested to cluster ToS meetings.

15. Methods to monitor development in forest policies and institutions was discussed, as it is currently not addressed. The need for this (collecting, validating and analysing information on national policies in order to measure progress towards SFM) was reiterated, with due regard to sensitive issues.

16. The meeting also recalled how ToS mandates are reviewed and updated following the evaluation of the work programme and the recommendations of member states according to an established procedure. This is when old ToS can be dissolved or new ones established.

17. Delegates noted the need for the ToS to cooperate with similar networks outside UNECE and FAO in order to avoid duplication of work.

III. Consideration of the background paper for the establishment of a working party to facilitate exchange of expert advice based on the work of UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists, including its terms of reference (agenda item 3)

18. There was a general consensus on the fact that the current situation regarding reporting lines and exchanges among ToS is not satisfactory. In particular it was noted that the reporting of the ToS to the joint TC/EFC bureaux was not regular and was less effective since it reached a restricted audience with limited horizontal exchanges. It was noted that two aspects required attention:

(a) Informal exchange of information among ToS and between ToS and delegates;

(b) Formal annual reporting required from ToS in accordance with UNECE procedures.

19. The meeting participants considered the two proposed options to improve linking of the expert, technical and policy levels as set out in ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2011/2.3. In addition, the meeting considered a further option 3 which proposed having the ToS that currently report to the joint TC/EFC Bureaux; report directly to the parent bodies, namely the TC and EFC. The three options and their resource and procedural implications were thoroughly considered. Following the debate, option 3 was discarded, given the established mandates of the TC and EFC.

20. Delegates concluded that there were no significant differences in resource implications for the Secretariat between the two original options. They concluded that proposing a new Working Party in the current economic climate would send the wrong signal to governments. The extension of the mandate of the WPFES thus emerged as the more feasible solution.

21. Suggestions on the possible modus operandi of the revised WP included:

(a) The organization of a half-day session at the beginning of the meeting for reporting, information exchange and priority setting by ToS leaders;

(b) The identification of priority ToS reports for more extensive consideration by the WP;

(c) Identification of ways for the ToS to consider requests from the parent bodies on specific policy issues;

(d) The possibility for submission of ToS reports in writing;

(e) Keeping meeting duration to a minimum;

(f) Requesting the Secretariat to structure the meeting programme in a way that makes the most efficient use of delegates' time.

22. The Secretariat explained that the recommendations from the zero meeting will be considered at the WPFES and transmitted to the Joint TC/EFC meeting to be held on 11 to 14 October 2011. Should the TC/EFC meeting decide to endorse the proposal contained in option 2, the revised WP would assume its functions at its next session in 2012.

23. Delegates agreed to elaborate further on the Terms of Reference for the revised WP as laid out in document 2.3 and reproduced below. A final draft of the ToR will be considered at the Joint TC/EFC meeting. The Secretariat invited delegates to submit their comments in the coming months. An official UNECE/FAO communication will be issued in this regard.

A. Terms of Reference of the revised Working Party

(a) The Working Party is a subsidiary body of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission and contributes to the implementation of the integrated programme of work of those two bodies. It meets annually to provide guidance on the implementation of all five areas of the programme of work. The Working Party also facilitates exchange of information on the work of the teams of specialists, identifies priorities for action and relevant emerging issues; and transmits suggested priorities to the Committee and the Commission for consideration.

(b) In particular, within the framework of the integrated programme, the Working Party shall:

(i) Contribute and provide technical advice to the Committee and the Commission on issues under consideration by those bodies;

(ii) Receive and discuss the reports from the teams of specialists to: enhance the understanding of their respective mandates and work; identify possible synergies; and facilitate the exchange of experiences between teams of specialists and delegations from member States. When needed, the Working Party would be requested to review and update mandates;

(c) Reach out to other sectors to discuss forest information and management related matters of common interest, including best practices in sustainable forestry management and their impact on the overall sustainability of forests, natural resources management, and other issues such as biodiversity and climate change;

(d) Identify themes and issues for in-depth discussion and review as part of the annual workshop held back-to-back with the Working Party session;

(e) Increase the visibility and impact of the work of teams of specialists among member States and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations.

(f) Review, on an ongoing basis, the needs at the international level for statistics and other information relating to forestry, wood-processing and forest products, including wood energy, and develop programmes to meet these needs. Particular attention shall be paid to improving quality, concepts, definitions and methodologies to increase the international comparability of statistics and other information;

(g) Develop, upon request from the parent bodies, methodologies for use in economic analysis of the sector, as well as techniques for collecting, validating, analyzing and disseminating information and statistics;

(h) Undertake, upon request from the parent bodies, ad hoc projects in economics and statistics relating to forestry, forest products and forest policies and institutions;

(i) Work together with other international bodies, including Forest Europe, Eurostat, International Tropical Timber Organization and the Conference of European Statisticians, with a view to achieving coordination of activities and avoiding any unnecessary duplication of effort.

B. Suggestions for the new name

24. Delegates put forward the following initial suggestions for a new name for the revised WP to be considered once the ToR are agreed:

(a) Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Information [Statistics] and Management

(b) Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Information [Statistics], Economics and Management

(c) Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Sustainable Forest Management.

C. Reporting lines

25. The graphic below visualises the new proposed reporting lines.

