

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
3 January 2012

Original: English

**Food and Agriculture
Organization****Economic Commission for Europe****Food and Agriculture Organization**

Timber Committee

European Forestry Commission

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management****Thirty-fourth session**

Geneva, 27-29 March 2012

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

Adoption of the Agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session¹**

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday 27 March 2012, starting at 10 a.m. The session will be preceded by the one day meeting "Stakeholder Meeting on the Green Economy Action Plan". It will be followed by a one day meeting "Forest Sector Outlook Day: Results, Methods and the Way Forward".

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Outcome of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission Joint Session and Implications for the Working Party
3. Information on the Strategic Review
4. Strategic Review 2013: Results of Team of Specialists Internal Evaluations
5. Guidance of work areas and review of Teams of Specialists (ToS):
 - (a) Markets and Statistics (Work Area 1) including ToS Sustainable Forest Products
 - (b) Forest Resources Assessment (Work Area 2) including ToS Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management
 - (c) Forest Sector Outlook Studies (Work Area 3) including ToS Outlook Studies

¹ Documents available for all sessions, and more information, including the registration form, at www.unece.org/wpfsem2012

(d) Social and Cultural (Work Area 4) including Joint Expert Network to Implement Sustainable Forest Management

(e) Policy and Cross-Sectoral (Work Area 5) including ToS on Forest Fires, ToS on Forest Policy in EECCA, and the Forest Communicators Network

6. Recent Trends in Forest Economics

7. Other business

8. Election of officers

9. Adoption of the report

II. Background information

1. 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 the 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.

2. The mandate of the Working Party, as modified on a trial basis (through 2013) by the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission (see ECE/TIM/2011/20 –FO:EFC/2011/20), is to:

(a) 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;

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

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

3. And, within the framework of the integrated programme:

(a) Contribute and provide technical advice to the Committee and the Commission on issues under consideration by those bodies, including on the preparations of studies such as the Outlook and the Forest Products Annual Market Review:

(i) 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;

(ii) Increase the visibility and impact of the work of Teams of Specialists among member States and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations.

(b) Reach out to other sectors to discuss related to forest information and management 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;

(c) 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;

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

3. The thirty-fourth session will be preceded by a one-day Stakeholder Meeting on the Green Economy Action Plan (see related programme).

4. This provisional agenda has been drawn up to allow the Working Party to concentrate on the guidance function and discussion of major topics. The Working Party's mandate will include guidance of all work areas and review of the Teams of Specialists. The aim is to foster exchanges and cooperation amongst Teams of Specialists and offer an opportunity to review respective areas of work in one session and by one body. Previously some ToS reported to the bureaux and others to the Working Party. For more information please see ECE/TIM/2011/20 –FO:EFC/2011/20.

5. Documents will be issued in advance to the regular mailing list, and will also be available for downloading from the Timber website (<http://www.unece.org/wpfsem2012>). Members of the Working Party will be alerted when documents become available. These documents will be issued in English only. This follows a decision of 32nd session of the Working Party to avoid delays related to official documents procedures and have information in the documents as up-to-date as possible.

6. Kindly note that delegates are requested to be prepared to speak on the substantive issues. Views of all delegates will be sought by the Chair.

III. Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda (Item 1)

7. In accordance with the Economic Commission for Europe's rules of procedure and established practice, the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

2. Outcome of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission Joint Session and Implications for the Working Party (Item 2)

8. At its sixty-ninth session the ECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission (thirty-sixth session) in October 2011 approved the new name and revised terms of reference of the Working Party (see document ECE/TIM/2011/8-FO/EFC/2011/8²). The Secretariat will present a summary of the discussions and the expectations of the TC/EFC.

3. Information on Strategic Review (Item 3)

9. Also at the October 2011 meeting the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission adopted modalities and methods for the 2013 Strategic Review. See paper

² http://live.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/20111010/ECE_TIM_2011_8_E-FO_EFC_2011_8.pdf

ECE/TIM/2011/9. As in past strategic reviews carried out by the section, this will be as broad and inclusive a process as possible, leading to a thorough assessment of the ECE/FAO work on Forestry and Timber and new programme of work for 2014-2017.. The Secretariat will provide a short description of the process, including main dates and tasks, which will also include inputs from the Working Party.

4. Strategic Review 2013: Results of Team of Specialists Internal Evaluation (Item 4)

10. In accordance with the 2013 Strategic Review, the seven Teams of Specialists have been requested, by the bureaux of the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission, to carry out an internal evaluation of the team, comparing objectives/mandate with outcomes and the organization, motivation, structure and support of each ToS . These will be presented at the meeting (copies on file by 15 February 2012) by the leaders of each ToS (where possible). Countries are asked to take note of these evaluations and comment on them (and the work of each ToS) for input to the Strategic Review. The Secretariat will then prepare a document for the consideration of the TC/EFC, including the results of the ToS self-assessment and the Working Party's discussions.

5. Guidance of work areas and review of Teams of Specialists (Item 5)

11. Delegates are requested to review the activities in 2011 and plans for 2012 and indicate their support or where changes are needed, as well as comment on the work and direction of the ToS during the year. Reports on the activities of the ToS will be made available before the meeting (these are separate from those provided under item 4). Each ToS, as noted in section I, item 5 above, is covered by different work areas. In addition to reviewing the activities and plans for the work area, we will discuss:

(a) Markets and Statistics

- Proposals for changes to the Forest Products Annual Market Review will be presented;
- Delegates will be requested to provide their review of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2009 process and provide input for the proposed 2011 round, and for planned capacity building events;
- A presentation on the just-concluded Serbian technical cooperation project will be made.

(b) Forest Resources Assessment

- Delegates will be requested to review the main outputs and production process of State of Europe's Forests 2011 and discuss and advise on its dissemination process.
- Furthermore delegates will be updated on developments on the 2015 cycle of FAO global reporting on forests and proposals for harmonisation with regional (including Forest Europe and Montreal Process) reporting.
- Finally delegates will be invited to advise the ToS on Monitoring SFM on its activities.

(c) Outlook Studies - Delegates will be requested to review the EFSOS II process and provide input for further activities, including opportunities for dissemination (particularly how to provide this information to regional and national level). In particular,

the procedural differences with previous outlook studies and the changing role of the national correspondent are possible topics for discussions.

(d) Social and Cultural - Delegates will be briefed about the third International Conference of Forestry Training Centres held from 6 to 8 June 2011 in Ossiach, Austria and review its main outputs (Ossiach Declaration).

(e) Policy and Cross-Sectoral

- Delegates will be briefed about recent developments of the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and the outputs of the related workshop scheduled on 26 March 2012.
- The Secretariat will present for the consideration of the delegates new ways of sharing the main results of the section's work (*Forest Product Market Review, State of Europe's Forests, European Forest Sector Outlook*) with a larger number of national experts from and outside the forest sector, for example in organizing National Forest Policy Seminars.
- Delegates will be updated about the possible contribution of the UNECE/FAO Secretariat to the servicing of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.
- Delegates are also expected to review the recommendation of the Workshop on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) held on 4-5 July 2011, in particular on establishing a virtual expert network supported by a virtual library of documents, valuation methods, case studies and projects on PES and forests.
- Delegates will be requested to review the development and implementation of an on-line educational tool based on the *State of Europe's Forests 2011*. They will be invited to advise the teams of specialists (notably the Forest Communicators Network) on opportunities for dissemination of this new tool.

6. Recent Trends in Forest Economics (Item 6)

12. In an attempt to increase the "economics" part of the meeting, a presentation by an expert in the area of forest economics will be delivered. On the basis of the presentation, as well as findings of the *State of Europe's Forests, European Forest Sector Outlook Study* and the *Forest Products Annual Market Review*, the Working Party will be asked to advise on the main issues to be covered in a proposed policy paper on forest economic development. The paper shall contribute to the discussions on the topic at the 2012 Timber Committee meeting (theme "sustainable forest products") and the 2013 United Nations Forum on Forests (theme "forests and economic development").

7. Other business (Item 7)

13. At the time of this document's submission, the secretariat has no matters for discussion under this item. Delegates should feel free to raise issues that are of concern to them prior to the meeting to facilitate discussion.

8. Election of officers (Item 8)

14. The Working Party is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. At its thirty-third session, the Working Party re-elected Mr. A. Mariano (Italy) as Chair and Ms. E. Maki-Simola (Finland) and Mr. M. Valgepea (Estonia) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of the thirty-fourth session.

9. Adoption of the report (Item 9)

15. The Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

III. Tentative timetable

16. The secretariat proposes the following tentative timetable:

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, Thirty-fourth session

Monday, 26 March 2012

10:00 – 18:00 Stakeholder Meeting on the Green Economy Action Plan

Tuesday, 27 March 2012

10:00 – 13:00 Items 1-4

15:00 – 18:00 Items 4 (continued) and 5a

Wednesday, 28 March 2012

10:00 – 13:00 Items 5a (continued) and 5b

15:00 – 18:00 Items 5b (continued) and 5d-e (note changed sequence)

Thursday, 29 March 2012

10:00 – 13:00 Items 5c and 6

15:00 – 18:00 Items 7-9

Friday, 30 March 2012

10:00-18:00 Forest Sector Outlook Day: Results, Methods and the Way Forward
