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

Geneva, 27-29 March 2012

Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda

Report**Report of the joint thirty-fourth session of the FAO/UNECE
Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and
Management****I. Attendance**

1. The Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management held its thirty-fourth session in Geneva from 27 to 29 March 2012. The session was attended by delegates from the following countries: Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.
2. A delegate of Australia also attended the session.
3. Representatives of the European Commission attended.
4. The following UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations attended the session: European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Forest Institute (EFI) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
5. Representatives from the following non-governmental organizations attended the session: the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Union des Sylviculteurs du Sud de l'Europe (USSE).

II. Adoption of the Agenda (Item 1 of the agenda)

6. The provisional agenda was adopted.

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

7. The Secretariat reported on the outcome of Orman 2011, the joint session of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission that took place in Antalya, Turkey, in October 2011. In particular, the Working Party was informed that the TC/EFC session agreed to change the reporting lines of the Teams of Specialists. For a trial period of two years, all seven Teams of Specialists will report to the Working Party. The Working Party's name was also changed accordingly, to reflect amendments in its mandate, now also covering aspects related to forest management. The current name is: 'Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management'. The Secretariat also briefed the meeting about other outcomes and decisions of Orman 2011 (see the report of the joint TC/EFC session, document ECE/TIM/2011/20 –FO:EFC/2011/20).

IV. Information on the Strategic Review (Item 3 of the agenda)

8. A report was made on the 2013 Strategic Review process, relevant deadlines and related documents. Detailed information on the review process can be found in document ECE/TIM/2011/9–FO:EFC/2011/9. As a contribution to the 2013 Strategic Review, the Working Party agreed to undertake a self-evaluation through in-depth discussions on the issue at its next session in 2013, possibly using breakout sessions and working groups.

V. Strategic Review 2013: Results of Team of Specialists Internal Evaluations (Item 4 of the agenda)

9. In accordance with the 2013 Strategic Review approved at Orman 2011, the seven Teams of Specialists (ToS) were requested to carry out internal evaluations of their teams, comparing their objectives/mandates with the outcomes, organization, motivation, structure and support. These were presented at the meeting by the leaders (or designated representatives) of each ToS. Countries were asked to take note of these evaluations and comment on them (and the work of each ToS) for input to the Strategic Review. As a follow up, the Secretariat will prepare a document for the consideration of the TC/EFC in October 2012, including the results of the ToS self-assessment and discussions held at this Working Party's session.

Team of Specialists on Forest Fires

10. Mr. Sergiy Zibtsev (Ukraine) reported on the results of the self-assessment exercise on behalf of the ToS team leader. The response rate from team members to the questions was considered satisfactory, and reflected the high participation and relevance of the Team of Specialists for Southern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The Team is seen as an important tool for the exchange of information and expertise, also contributing at the global level to the enhancement of work on forest fires.

11. Team members considered that the Team was successful in particular in addressing the following issues: promotion of East-West fire science dialogue; fire use in the agricultural and pastoral domain; newly arising fire problems in cultural landscapes; fire management in contaminated terrain (e.g., radioactive, chemical and other contamination);

and enhancing transboundary cooperation in fire management, especially through regional networks.

12. The meeting noted the importance for this Team of Specialists of also addressing forest fire prevention (in particular through a participatory and bottom-up approach), and it was suggested that the ToS mandate be modified to specifically cover this issue.

Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products

13. This self-evaluation was presented by Mr. Branko Glavonjić, Deputy Leader of the Team. Mr. Glavonjić summarized the results of the self-evaluation survey, the response rate for which was admittedly rather low, but nonetheless gave some indication of the Team's impression of their current status. The sub-group leaders will also add their comments.

14. More than half of the respondents felt that in their position they influenced the implementation and outcome of the ToS' work in their country but indicated that there was a lack of formal methods for disseminating results from ToS and Timber Committee (TC) sessions to colleagues in their home countries. They also indicated that the TC Secretariat and ToS Leaders should have a greater role in establishing lines of communication.

15. Funding to attend meetings is a significant issue. There should be mechanisms in the TC infrastructure to budget for travel expenses for ToS Leaders and other officers. Member country and industry funds should be actively sought.

16. The mandate of the Team was clear, however it was suggested that it be updated more frequently. It was felt that regional coverage was good, but more attention should be given to countries outside the region which influence markets within the ECE region.

Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management

17. The summary of the self-evaluation of the ToS report was presented by Mr. Kari Korhonen, the leader of the Team. The survey was sent to all 90 ToS members, coming from 35 countries and 16 organizations. The 8 replies received covers less than one tenth of the total, however they represented the views of 8 different countries.

18. The respondents noted the relevance of the Team's activities for the global (FRA) and regional (SoEF) reporting and the highly valued the role the Team plays in these two processes. The exchange of experiences related to international reporting and receiving input/guidance for implementation at a national level were considered the main sources of personal motivation.

19. The survey results confirmed the clarity of the mandate and adequacy of the ToS' working methods (i.e. personal communications, meetings and seminars). The structure, representativeness and expertise of the Team were found to be adequate. The respondents found support provided by the Secretariat satisfactory, yet the need for raising funds from international sources to support the work of the ToS was mentioned. Combining the Team's activities with other relevant projects was identified as a tool for increasing the ToS' efficiency and effectiveness.

20. The Working Party noted the increased scope of topics covered and addressed by the Team; however it was observed that the report did not reflect problems that had been encountered recently with reporting on socio-economic indicators. Further efforts in developing Team's capacity in this area, which would allow it to better report on complex, socio-economic conditions of SFM, were suggested.

21. The Working Party welcomed the report and appreciated the overall active nature of the Team, which significantly contributed to the accomplishments of the recently released reports on forests and forest management. The Team's involvement was found to have been

of significant importance for the implementation and completion of the latest round of global and regional reporting.

Team of Specialists on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

22. Professor Anatoly Petrov (Team Leader) provided a short background on the establishment of the ToS on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia as well as on the challenges encountered. In particular, he mentioned language to be a major constraint with just about 50% of members speaking English, the lack of continuity in participation, the very different national forest policy contexts and the lack of expertise of the ToS' members.

23. Three responses (from fifty-one members) were received to the self-evaluation questionnaire. Professor Petrov indicated that the main goal of the ToS, to contribute to sustainable forest management through effective forest policy, could not be achieved under current circumstances. To conclude he formulated a set of recommendations to improve the work of the ToS. These included: a) the need to identify and nominate individuals that are involved in forest policy development and implementation and that have the mandate and authority to make forest policy related decisions; b) to develop annual work plans and a monitoring and reporting system; and c) to find funding for the participation of members from Central Asia.

24. Professor Petrov concluded his presentation by informing the audience that the Russian Federation has started, through a consultative process involving the public, the formulation of a forest policy, the first of its kind, that is expected to be approved and ratified by the end of 2012.

25. A member state proposed that the ToS activities could be supported by project funding to improve participation and results. In response, the Secretariat indicated that a project proposal for capacity building on forest policy in a green economy in Central Asia and the Caucasus has been already submitted for possible funding to UNDA (United Nations Development Account). If the project is accepted, it would be seen as providing seed money for further donor contributions.

Forest Communicators Network

26. Mr. Florian Kraxner (Team member) presented the results of the ToS self-evaluation on behalf of the Team Leader. The FCN has 130 members, including 40 who have been officially nominated. The survey was sent out to all members. Six members completed the questionnaire accounting for 4.6 % of the team. Responses were received from Western Europe (1), Central Europe (3) and Eastern Europe (1), but none were received from Southern Europe. One person from the private sector also responded.

27. Despite the low response rate, the questionnaires received in response to the FCN self-evaluation were found useful, presenting, overall, a positive picture. The main motivations for participating were the exchange of experiences and lessons learned, building a professional network and access to tangible outputs. Leadership and guidance were rated as fairly good. All topics covered by the current mandate were seen as relevant and some were qualified as particularly successful and making an impact, in particular the work done for the Strategic Framework, for the International Year of Forests and for the EU. Stronger involvement from some countries was seen as desirable.

28. The Working Party welcomed the FCN's close cooperation with other forest communication experts (Forest Europe, EU and UNFF). However, it was noted that other sectors' communications on forests (i.e. biodiversity, environment) are often contradictory to the messages originating in the forest sector and thus lead to confusion in the public understanding of the issue. The Working Party suggested that the FCN reach out more to

other sectors, and work at the development of cross-sectoral messages in cooperation with other communities.

29. It was also stressed that ToS reporting lines to the Governing Body are now clearer and acknowledged by the Team, following the recent change of the Working Party Mandate.

Team of Specialists on Outlook Studies

30. Mr. Jeff Prestemon, Deputy Leader of the Team, presented the self-evaluation of the Team. Eight responses (from 93 members) were received. Most core team members and specialists reported insufficient resources, depending on their level of involvement and support received by their institutes/countries as a major constraint to participation. Feedback from the core team to country correspondents was evaluated as sporadic and limited by time pressure and few resources. Ways and means to keep the national correspondents better involved should be explored. Russia, the Mediterranean and Balkan countries were particularly less present in the process.

31. For future work, team members suggested placing more emphasis on globalisation, the influence of emerging economies as well as on climate change impacts and links with ecology. They also recommended a more coherent approach to the modelling of scenarios and improving consistency between sub-regional outlooks with a view to considering an outlook study for the UNECE region as a whole.

32. Team members called for better visibility and funding of authors and therefore encouraged the Secretariat to call on governments to secure contributions and to raise awareness of the importance of the outlook work.

33. In response to a question regarding users of outlook studies, it was mentioned that the strategic review process should provide more information on how users perceive these studies.

34. The Russian Federation informed the Working Party that the Russian Outlook Study is well underway and release is planned for September 2012, at the time of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) meeting.

Joint Expert Network (JEN) to implement Sustainable Forest Management

35. The Leader of the ILO/UNECE/FAO Joint Expert Network informed delegates that the Steering Committee of the team completed the self-evaluation questionnaire. He shared with the Working Party some lessons learned since 2008. The identification of national focal points was seen as a necessary step to increase the dissemination and impact of activities. The lack of funding remains a critical point for organizing Steering Committee meetings. From a more strategic point of view, he underlined the growing complexity of regulations which apply to forestry work and the need for training employees as well as employers in this regard. He also explained the importance of working at the European level to design modern forestry training.

General Comments by the Working Party to the ToS' reports

36. It should be noted that all Teams of Specialists identified lack of financial support to their work as a major constraint for the ToS members to participate in relevant ToS meetings and contribute to the ToS work.

37. Most of the comments made by the Working Party related to the survey process and the low percentage of team members who replied. Opinions diverged as to the reasons for such a low rate: some attributed it to a lack of interest in the review process, others, on the contrary, saw it as a sign that the ToS did not need any particular modification or criticism, and thus there was no need for feedback. Many would-be respondents did not reply because

they understood the survey to be aimed at member countries only, not at their organizations. In general, it was agreed that surveys are burdensome for officers in member countries, and this method of assessment should be avoided whenever possible.

38. To overcome the low response rate to the ToS questionnaire from ToS members, the Working Party suggested extending the deadline for responding to the end of April. Additional responses should be sent to the Secretariat, in order to allow a better assessment of the work of the Teams of Specialists as well as related recommendations and suggestions for improvement of the work. ToS leaders were asked to make an extra effort to reach out to their membership and prompt replies.

39. Commenting on possible adjustments of ToS mandates in general, it was suggested that the draft ECE/FAO Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy be used as one basis when reformulating the mandate of the teams.

VI. Guidance to Work Area 1: Markets and Statistics (Item 5a of the agenda)

40. The challenges and successes of last year's work on the Forest Products Annual Market Review were presented along with plans and challenges related to the work this year. This included the dropping of a tropical wood chapter, changes to the certified forest products chapter, the addition of a special chapter on innovative forest products, as well as adding more electronic features including links from the online electronic version of the publication. The revised procedures for the TC market discussions and statements were also raised. The theme for the 2012 Review will be "sustainable forest products". The secretariat also presented the 2011 work on capacity building and mentioned the current lack of funding for workshops, or other projects related to capacity building, for this year.

41. Along with capacity building, the Forest Products Annual Market Review has resource related issues and constraints. Funding has been cut and, at least for the short term, human resources have also been reduced as a result of hiring freezes.

42. The Working Party supported the changes to the Market Review related to certified forest products and mentioned that certification is of interest to the Working Party and may have new significance given the "due diligence" element of legislation in the US and Europe (Lacey Act and the EU Timber Regulation). It was also mentioned that the Review is a low cost, quickly produced publication that filled a unique niche for timely forest product market information every year.

43. There was support for the changes to the electronic version of the Market Review. In this work area the Market Review and the Timber database are considered two of the major outputs. Thus, there should be an emphasis on linking these two products electronically, thereby, connecting the analytical and statistical elements of the work on forest products.

44. There was a comment that the TIMBER database was only current to 2009 and that ideally it should be kept current with the information in the Market Review. The secretariat explained that the database in fact included the 2010 data and this was available through the FPAMR supporting data, the compressed datafile for 1964-2010, FAOSTAT and Eurostat. However the product pages on the UNECE/FAO website had not been updated with 2010 figures, as well there not being secondary products data, noting that this was related to the shortage of resources for producing the FPAMR last year.

45. The Working Party expressed a desire to see the ongoing lack of resources for the Market Review resolved, which was echoed by the Secretariat. With a shortfall of 20,000 USD, if funding does not improve in the next couple of months, the Secretariat cannot guarantee the delivery of the study in its current format, and key chapters will have to be cut. It was noted that pledges by countries to fund the Review for one or more years (e.g.

through MoUs) might be an option worth considering, as they would guarantee a regular issuing of the publication and would avoid facing the same funding problems on a yearly basis.

46. Additional points about the Market Review were made regarding moving the publication date to later in the year, which would allow the study to benefit from the availability of data. However, it was noted that this would not work with the TC meeting schedule, as the FPAMR needs to be published in time for the TC session in October.

47. The late release of the French version of the Market Review was also noted. Ideally the Working Party would like to see a timely translation of the publication into French, however, even if this cannot occur, the publication in French is still of great value and thus should be continued.

48. The current lack of capacity building projects for southeast Europe was brought up, along with the need for hosts and sponsors.

49. Recent and planned activities in forest products statistics were presented and, in particular, the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) and the Timber Committee Questionnaire (TCQ). The results of the indicators of achievement used to monitor success of the programme were discussed. The outcome of the meeting of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG) was shared with the Working Party, and particularly the decision to request an extensive revision of the Harmonised System (HS) of the World Customs Organization in order to have it better harmonised with data needs in the forest products sector and the JFSQ. Finally the review of the analysis of the web log of the TC/EFC web site was presented.

50. Delegates expressed their strong support for the FAO-led HS revision, especially for the inclusion of sawlogs and a further species breakdown. The process was outlined and details on the FAO proposal as well as information on the national contact point for the World Customs Organisation (WCO) will be sent to Working Party delegates in order for them to encourage their countries' support for the proposal within the WCO. The electronic version of the table containing proposed changes will also be provided to delegates.

51. The request for countries to submit JFSQ data by 15 May was again seen as a difficult deadline but delegates planned to make every effort to provide data as soon as possible. In response to a question, the Secretariat indicated that no substantive changes were planned to the 2012 JFSQ, however, the 2013 version would include an item on pellets production and trade.

52. Delegates encouraged the expansion of the price database as a follow-up to the workshop co-organized with EFI last November. Although resource constraints had limited work in this area, UNECE/FAO and EFI were prepared to discuss further collaboration to improve the availability of price information for the forest sector community. Several countries indicated their willingness to contribute data to the project.

53. The main results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) were presented. 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. Delegates were also informed of the timeline for the next round of the enquiry (on 2011 data) and plans for the coming year. These include the organisation of a policy debate in Geneva on 8 May 2012 discussing the pros and cons of the growing use of woody biomass for energy and a capacity-building workshop in Paris, 11-13 June, to improve national and international wood energy statistics.

54. Mr. Branko Glavonjic (Serbia) presented the methodology and results of a FAO Technical Cooperation Project on Wood Energy. Mr. Florian Steierer, FAO, highlighted FAO's activities in this area of work. In particular, he described the preparation of a JWEE

manual and the recruitment of bi-lingual Russian/ English consultants to facilitate JWEE work with Russian-speaking countries.

55. The Working Party welcomed the results of the 2009 JWEE and expressed its appreciation at the improving quality of the enquiry. There was general agreement on the proposed timeline for the 2011 JWEE round. The potential for convergence between UNECE/FAO and Eurostat reporting processes was highlighted. In this spirit, a proposal to explore means for the JWEE data for EU countries to feed into the template for National Renewable Energy Action Plan progress reports (required under Article 22, EU Directive 2009/28/EC) was welcomed. There was also discussion on exploring ways to move towards annual JWEE reporting, although several delegates expressed reluctance to prepare a full JWEE every year. It was suggested that a possible solution could be the preparation of a 'lighter version' in intermediate years.

56. It was noted that the timetable needs to be kept and that it is not possible to send the JWEE Questionnaire before September as prefilled tables can only be completed in August.

57. Delegates stressed the importance of building on current JWEE activities and also increasing the number of participating countries. In this context, a recommendation was made to the Bureaux to consider the establishment of a Team of Specialists on wood energy matters. Interest was also expressed in supporting JWEE activities aimed at broadening participation in the process.

VII. Guidance to Work Area 2: Forest Resources Assessment (Item 5b of the agenda)

58. The Working Party was informed of recent developments related to the finalization, dissemination and evaluation of the Forest Europe/UNECE/FAO report, State of Europe's Forests 2011 (SoEF2011). The final report and background material are available on the UNECE/FAO and Forest Europe websites. Results of the reporting process are being presented at various international and national meetings, whenever possible, together with the results of European Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS II) 2010-2030.

59. Two specific dissemination tools, targeted at different audiences, have been developed: i) a Forest Europe and UNECE/FAO interactive database on quantitative indicators that was released in December 2011, including, for the first time, a Russian-language version¹; ii) an online educational kit with two entry points, one of which is for teachers and the other for 11-12 year old students (not yet available).

60. The Working Party welcomed the work on SoEF 2011 and its follow-up activities. The process to develop the report was seen as a good example of cooperation among different experts from different countries and international organizations. SoEF also was found to be a good tool for stimulating communication between forest inventory practitioners, researchers and policy makers. Other tools, such as the educational toolkit, were seen as a promising means for reaching new audiences and addressing new aspects of Sustainable Forest Management.

61. In response to a question on the availability of the French and Russian versions of the report, the Secretariat explained that this was technically feasible as the United Nations could provide French and Russian translations as part of its regular work in this area. However, to proceed with translation by the UN, the copyright of the publication, currently with Forest Europe, needed to be passed to the UN, and the UN logo would need to be

¹ <http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/>

repositioned. At the time of this meeting, Forest Europe Liaison Unit Oslo had not supported the aforementioned steps.

62. The Working Party stressed the importance of also collecting national reports, given the wealth of information they contain. It was noted that the recently launched EFI project on the evaluation of the implementation of Criteria and Indicators (C&I) in Europe would be a good tool for collecting relevant national information. The Secretariat was encouraged to cooperate with EFI to disseminate these data.

63. The secretariat informed the Working Party about plans for future global reporting, i.e. for the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). The 2015 reporting for this report will be carried out as a collaborative activity between FAO and other actors, including the Montreal Process, Forest Europe and the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section. Data collection will be organised so as to avoid duplication and multiple requests for data. Inconsistencies in definitions between the global and regional modules will also be avoided. The process of data production, collection and review will be streamlined and "single windows" created both at the national level and the international level for the collection of data.

64. As far as the pan-European level is concerned, a proposal to coordinate data collection on quantitative pan-European indicators with global data collection had been accepted by the Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting on 14-15 February in Madrid and included in the Forest Europe Work Programme for 2012-2015. FAO, UNECE/FAO and the Liaison Unit Madrid are the leading parties in this activity.

65. The Working Party welcomed progress towards the harmonization of FRA and SoEF reporting processes and encouraged, as far as possible, harmonization with other forest-related reporting processes. It also recognized the value and benefits of coordinated reporting in terms of increased impact and efficiency. Delegates raised several issues related to the technical aspects of the reporting process and pointed out difficulties in the coordination of data collection, in particular related to short deadlines for the preparatory work. The Working Party saw a need to allocate more time for the development of reporting formats and related background material for regional reporting.

66. It was highlighted that the global collaborative reporting process would be an excellent opportunity for developing cooperation among the two main Criteria & Indicator processes in the UNECE region. This cooperation could include the joint collection of large sets of information and the preparation of a joint study on forests and forestry in temporal and boreal zones. The secretariat was encouraged to continue working with FAO, the Montréal Process and Forest Europe to this end.

67. On the dissemination of SoEF related data, the Working Party encouraged the secretariat to make the best use of the available data for policy making, education and communication purposes. Moreover, it was noted that the translation into national languages of information and educational tools should be encouraged.

68. Mr. Johannes Hangler, Deputy Leader of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM, presented plans for the Team's work in the coming period. The next meeting of the Team of Specialists will be held on 22-24 May 2012 in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation. The Team identified areas related to the international reporting on forests and forest management that needed substantial improvement and additional involvement of the Team. These were: (i) further development of the SFM assessment method, (ii) improved reporting on forest growth and drain and (iii) improved reporting on socio-economic and other "difficult" indicators. The Team had also identified the development of further guidance on reporting according the European Forest Types (EFT) as an area requiring work. Mr. Kit Prins updated the Working Party on recent developments and plans for further work on developing the SFM assessment method; and it was proposed that the detailed results from this work be presented to the next session of the Working Party.

69. At its 33rd session, in a follow up to the roundtable discussion on Forest Information Challenges, the Working Party had requested that the secretariat develop proposals for future work modalities. The Secretariat proposed that the Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM serve as the main platform for cooperation among FAO, UNECE/FAO, regional organizations, countries and experts. The proposal is being discussed with partners and will be further discussed at the next meeting of the Team.

70. The Working Party supported the proposed directions for the work and, in particular, efforts aimed at increasing cooperation and streamlining forest reporting; delegates agreed that the ToS provides an open and participatory platform for cooperation. The need to make all possible efforts to avoid inconsistencies and duplication of work was stressed. In particular, work should be consistent with, and take into account new initiatives e.g. the Action Plan on the Green Economy and, in this regard, communication should be maintained between the Team and relevant partners involved in different initiatives. The Working Party noted with appreciation the willingness of partners working in the pan-European region to collaborate more closely on streamlining the region's forest related reporting.

71. The Working Party raised the issue of the applicability and added value of the European Forest Types (EFT) exercise. In this regard, it requested that, also given the lack of clarity regarding the application of the EFT in the next round of data collection on the pan-European indicators, the Secretariat should liaise with Forest Europe to obtain more information and guidance in this issue. Moreover, it was suggested that before proceeding further with the application of the EFT, a workshop could be organized by relevant partners to finalize the pilot project and evaluate its outcome, assess challenges, exchange experiences and lessons learned, and develop recommendations for future work.

72. Work plans for SFM assessment were noted and advice provided on the continuation of the work. In this regard, it was noted that it is necessary to involve policy makers in the process from an early stage. This would help ensure that relevant work is taken into consideration in the policy agenda at the national and international levels and provides meaningful insights to decision makers. Therefore, it was recommended to seek the participation of relevant policy makers in relevant forums (e.g. Forest Europe).

73. The preparation of a new edition of the report on the state of private forests was raised in the context of the important role private forests owners play in wood mobilization. The secretariat was encouraged to continue liaising with relevant partners to examine the possibility of developing a new report on this subject. The year 2014 was mentioned as a suitable reference year for initiation of this report.

VIII. Guidance to Work Area 3: Outlook Studies (Item 5c of the agenda)

74. The Working Party was briefed on activities undertaken by the secretariat and stakeholders to disseminate the results of the European Forest Sector Outlook Study II to different sectors at the national and international level. Delegations informed the Working Party of national initiatives taken to disseminate or build on the findings of EFSOS II.

75. The main results of the EFSOS II and the North American Forest Sector Outlook Study (NAFSOS) were presented, together with an update on the status of the Russian Federation Forest Sector Outlook Study. The Working Party welcomed the studies and expressed its appreciation to the authors and Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook for producing these useful outputs. In particular the Working Party highlighted the importance of outlook studies for initiating communication with other policy areas such as energy, climate change, biodiversity and land management.

76. Delegates recommended that future work look at improving the integration of trade effects and flows as well as improving the spatial resolution of data. In connection with the

latter, it was suggested that sustainability assessment ranges could be adapted to the country level to reflect different national situations.

77. Commenting on the outlook process, delegates highlighted the need for improving communication among the core group, its parent bodies and correspondents. Due to resource and time constraints, consultation with national correspondents was not optimal. Besides, given their increasing complexity, the models and methodology employed in the elaboration of outlook studies are less accessible to national correspondents than they may have been in the past. Communicating, explaining and receiving meaningful feedback from national correspondents thus remains a challenge. It was therefore recommended that links with regional and national forestry research institutes should be reinforced. In this regard, an initiative to improve the understanding of outlook models and build the capacity of national experts was highlighted.

78. The scope of the studies was also discussed by the Working Party. Differences between the approach of EFSOS II (more policy-oriented) and NAFSOS (more market oriented) were highlighted as well as discrepancies in the geographical coverage of EFSOS II compared to the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report. Options for increasing the scope to incorporate trade aspects and policy recommendations were discussed as well as the possibility to have one ECE-wide study. The Working Party recommended making use of existing national outlook studies where available and that country-level data should be validated by national experts to identify any potential discrepancies. A broad policy discussion in the parent bodies should ensue to formulate conclusions and recommendations.

79. Delegates also informed the Working Party about the use of outlook studies in their national contexts. Overall, outlook studies were mainly used by researchers and experts. Use by industry and policymakers was perceived as marginal. It was recommended that these stakeholders need to be more actively involved in the outlook studies at the elaboration and policy recommendation stages.

IX. Guidance to Work Area 4: Social and Cultural (Item 5d of the agenda)

80. A report was made on actions undertaken in 2011 and proposed activities for 2012 under Work Area 4. Those activities largely depend on the work of the ILO/UNECE/FAO Joint Expert Network to implement Sustainable Forest Management (JEN). Mr. Christian Salvignol, Leader of the JEN, emphasized the main Network outputs and their impact. These included the organization of conferences and events such as the Conferences of the Forestry Training Centers, as well as the development of practical "ready to use" tools such as the Certificates of Competence for forestry work (chainsaw users, forest entrepreneurs) and the definition of competencies and related training modules for wood energy harvesting (WETnet project).

81. The Working Party stressed the need for forestry training centres in order to provide companies with the skilled workforce which is required to respond to the expected increase in demand for wood. In this regard, the Working Party considered the activities of the JEN important and wished that they continue.

X. Guidance to Work Area 5: Policy and Cross-Sectoral Issues (Item 5e of the agenda)

82. A report was made about the work undertaken under Work Area 5, which included: contributions to the global dialogue on forests; monitoring and analysis of recent developments in forest sector policies, legislation, institutions, and in national forest programmes; and on the interaction between the forest sector and other sectors; sustainable

forest management through capacity building for forest policies and institutions; organization of policy forums on major topical issues; the exchange of information on improving management of wildland fires; improvement in sectoral and cross sectoral exchanges and communications. In particular, the report focused on the many activities and events developed to celebrate the International Year of Forests, including exhibits, special events and ceremonies and a Ph.D. Thesis Award.

83. Mr. Florian Kraxner (Team member) presented the activities of the Forest Communicators Network in 2011, focusing in particular on the important advice the group provided for the organization of events in the International Year of the Forests at the regional as well as at the global level (through UNFF). He also mentioned the work of the Forest Pedagogic subgroup, now working on the outline of a Common European Strategy for Forest Pedagogies.

84. It was also mentioned that, at their 2012 meeting, the FCN agreed to assess the work undertaken in 2011 and discuss lessons learned. He also reported on the work of the FCN on 'bridging the gap' between facts and the public perception of European forests and wood use; the European Forest Week; and work to build public relations capacities in various countries.

85. Responding to the request of the team leader on the Joint Expert Network (JEN) to the FCN to work on a possible strategy for attracting attention and interest in new forest training, the FCN representative said that the agenda of the next meeting of the FCN, to be held in Antalya in June 2012, could be modified to include a discussion on this subject and invited the leader of the JEN to participate in this meeting.

XI. Recent Trends in Forest Economics (Item 6 of the agenda)

86. The Working Party was presented with the outline (see Annex) of a paper on forestry and economic development in the ECE region that will be prepared for review at the 70th session of the Timber Committee (October 2012) and later presented at UNFF10. Delegates approved the concept as a timely and useful contribution to discussions at a global level, provided comments, and agreed to review and submit additional comments during the following two weeks on the draft outline and concept.

87. Mr. Charles McKetta (United States) delivered a presentation on the impact of forestry on local economies with specific examples from the Northwestern United States.

XII. Other Business (Item 7 of the agenda)

88. The European Commission informed the Working Party that it has had the text of its publication on wood mobilisation, produced jointly with UNECE and MCPFE, translated into Russian and is available on request.

89. The dates for the next meeting of the Working Party were tentatively established as 18-22 March 2013 in Geneva. An informal poll indicated delegates would be equally pleased if the meeting could be hosted in Rome by FAO.

XIII. Election of officers (Item 8 of the agenda)

90. The Working Party elected Ms. Elina Maki-Simola (Finland) as Chair and Mr. Johannes Hangler (Austria) and Mr. Angelo Mariano (Italy) as Vice-chairs to hold office through the end of the thirty-fifth session.

XIV. Adoption of the report (Item 9 of the agenda)

91. The Working Party adopted the report, based on a draft by the secretariat.

Annex I

Outline of Forest Economics study (19/3/2012)

Forests and economic development in the UNECE region

Introduction (1/2 page)

Objective of paper: to describe how forests contribute to economic development in the UNECE region, and major trends. On this basis to identify major policy challenges, and the factors which may inform policy makers' choices.

Background (1 page)

Overview of forest cover, regional forest distribution, forest area per head, with comparison to other regions. (SoEF 2011, FRA, map)

How do forests contribute to economic development in the UNECE region? Situation around 2012 and trends over last 20 years (10 pages, one standard page format² for each theme)

Introduction, stressing multi-functionality, multiple sources of income and varied contributions of forests to economic development.

Forests create wealth and income

Share of forestry and forest industries in GDP, value of marketed goods and services (SoEF 2011, FRA). Trends in removals and production, volume and value (FPAMR). Net revenue of forest owners (Partial data from SoEF 2011)

The forest sector provides employment and livelihoods

Number employed, by sector, relative importance, forest ownership, trends (SoEF 2011, FRA)

Wood is an important renewable raw material and fuel

Consumption per head, trends, share of wood in total and renewable energy. (JWEE, FPAMR, SoEF 2011). Discussion of sustainability of wood supply: how to measure, influencing factors, trends (SoEF 2011, FRA)

² Main message, one paragraph of explanation, one graph/map and one table

The forest sector is low waste, with high recycling and recovery of products

Share of residues in raw material consumption, importance of recovered paper and wood products, landscape care wood etc., trends (EUWood, EFSOS).

The UNECE region supplies other regions with forest products from renewable sources

Regional trade balances and trends (e.g. to increased net exports for the region as a whole) (FPAMR, data base).

Forest derived goods and services contribute much more to society than their reported value

Discussion of valuation of non-marketed goods and services (list sequestration, biodiversity, landscape, recreation, protection, water supply, etc.). Estimates of approximate values (total or per hectare) (SoEF 2011, FRA).

The public contributes significant funds to promote sustainable forest management

Government expenditure on forests (SoEF 2011, FRA). Discussion of whether policies and instruments in place address main policy challenges effectively, and efficiently?

The way ahead: outlook and major policy challenges (9 pages – also with a page-per-issue format)

Outlook for the UNECE region forest sector

Synthesis/summary of EFSOS II, NAFSOS (and RUFOS, if anything available).

Can future wood demand be satisfied on a sustainable basis?

Compare EFSOS/NAFSOS results with sustainability criteria (EFSOS II, chapter 4).

How much can the UNECE region forest contribute, on a sustainable basis, to the supply of renewable energy?

EFSOS energy scenario, NAFSOS. Quantify potential and put in context. Mention risks/threats to sustainability.

Developing a sustainable workforce

Project future workforce needs on the basis of production scenarios, describing problems to obtain adequately skilled workforce.

Developing and implementing payment for forest ecosystem services

Concept of PES, which is important to ensure balance between forest management objectives, and ensure that sufficient economic resources are available for SFM. Potential and challenges in moving from theory to practice.

Promoting innovative forest products

Innovative forest products and how they can contribute to the green economy (based on the innovation scenario of EFSOS II and on NAFSOS and FPAMR).

Demonstrating and communicating sustainable forest management.

Reference to assessing sustainable forest management and certification, as well as Life Cycle Assessment. Importance of communicating with, and understanding, other sectors, notably energy and environment.

Establishing wood as a central part of the green economy

Action Plan for forest sector in the green economy.

Conclusion (1 page)

How the UNECE region sector must change to contribute fully to a green economy and to enhance its role in economic development.

Sources

SoEF 2011: State of Europe's Forests 2011 – most recent and comprehensive overview of sustainable forest management in pan-European region. Does not include North America.

FRA: Global Forest Resource Assessment, recent and authoritative, covers North America. If necessary, supplement FRA data with US/Canada national sources, to achieve similar coverage as SoEF 2011.

FPAMR: Forest Products Annual Market Review (new title forthcoming): trends, and analysis of markets.

JWEE: Joint Wood Energy Enquiry – latest data on use of wood for energy.

EFSOS II: European Forest Sector Outlook Study, 2011. Scenarios around policy relevant challenges.

NAFSOS: North American Outlook Study 2012. (to be issued shortly) Also has policy relevant scenarios.

RUFOS: Russian Forest Sector Outlook Study – in preparation, not clear whether results will be available in time.
