70th Session of the Timber Committee

Outcomes of Rio+20 and of COFO

Geneva, Switzerland
16-19 October 2012
Rio+20

• United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development “The future we want”, June 20 to 22, 2012
• Two main themes of the Rio+20 conference:
  • a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
  • The institutional framework for sustainable development
• Outcome: green economy important tool for SD, not a rigid set of rules
• Main outcomes for forests:
  • call for cross-sectoral, cross-institutional policies for SFM, strengthening forest governance, improving livelihoods
  • Implementation of NLBI (UNFF, CPF), mainstreaming SFM into economic policy and decision making
Rio+20: UNECE/FAO side event

• Friday, June 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2012, with support of Finland and Sweden
• “What is your priority action for the Forest Sector to show the way towards a Green Economy?”
• was organized to present the “Action Plan for a Forest Sector in a Green Economy in the ECE Region”
• to learn from countries experience and to collect recommendations to assist the forest sector to evolve and to steer the transition towards a green economy.
Rio+20: UNECE/FAO side event

• Mr. Sven Alkalaj, Executive Secretary of UN-ECE: definition of the forest sector in a green economy and a broad overview of the Action Plan

• FAO on behalf of Mr. Eduardo Rojas, Assistant Director General, FAO Forestry Department: further details on the content the Action Plan and on its formulation process

• Keynote presentations on priority actions at national level:
  • Mr. Jari Koskinen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
  • Mr. Veysel Ergülu, Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey
  • Mr. Magnus Kindbom, Vice Minister for Rural Affairs
Rio+20: UNECE/FAO side event

- Discussion and session for participants to write their recommendations for priority actions
- 48 recommendations
- Will be considered for the Action Plan

- Closing remarks, Mr. Jari Koskinen: a unique opportunity to discuss the Action Plan and to share experience and move towards the endorsement of the Action Plan in Metsa 2013
21st COFO

UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section at 2 side events:

- Taking Action: The forest sector in a green economy in the ECE
- Wood and the Green Economy: Forest grow solutions to global challenges (WB)

- TC/EFC Bureaux meeting

UNECE Timber Committee, October 2012, Geneva
COFO Recommendations:

• Maximize forests’ contribution to greening the economy (welcomed UNECE/FAO GE AP)
• Cross-sectoral communication and collaboration
• Support countries for wood energy, strengthening forest governance and national forest information systems
• Strengthen financial basis for SFM
• Implement GFRA long-term strategy
• Support renewal of Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products and consider similar arrangements and bodies at regional levels and include NWFPs
• Informed of successful cooperation between UNECE TC and FAO EFC

High relevance of UNECE/FAO work
TC asked to consider

- Establishing a regional Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products