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

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry European Forestry Commission

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
Thirty-sixth session**
Geneva, 17-18 June 2014
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:
IMPROVING INFORMATION ON FOREST OWNERSHIP IN THE UNECE REGION**

AGENDA ITEM 6

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

A round table discussion on forest ownership will be organized by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section during the working party meeting in Geneva (18 June 2014). The round table will consist of invited country delegates and experts from international organizations.

The discussion will focus on forest ownership structure and changes (including land tenure), and the implications to forest management and policy implementation both in public and private forests in UNECE region. Its results of the round table will be used for developing the new questionnaire on forest ownership reporting. ---.

A. Key questions for guidance and discussion

1. The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section together with the COST Action on Forest Land Ownership (FACESMAP) have initiated work on the new cycle on forest ownership reporting in the UNECE region. More information about the process (including the first draft of the new questionnaire) can be found in the background document prepared for the item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda.
2. To support the process and to ensure the new reporting addresses the major issues relevant to forest ownership and tenure in the region a round table discussion will be organized in the framework of the 36th session of the FAO/UNECE Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management. The roundtable will be composed of the country delegates from Estonia, Russian Federation, Spain and the United States, as well as other representatives of Confederation of European Private Forest Owners - CEPF, European State Forest Association - EUSTAFOR and COST Action on Forest Land Ownership (FACESMAP); all delegates will be invited to contribute to the discussion.

The discussion, which will be moderated by Switzerland, will focus on the implications of forest ownership structure and changes (including land tenure) to forest management and policy implementation both in public and private forests. Furthermore, the panellists and delegates will be invited to evaluate the current knowledge on forest ownership in the region. The results of the discussion will be used for developing the advanced draft of the questionnaire of forest ownership reporting in the UNECE region.

3. The Working Party is invited to:
 - a. *Discuss the key issues related to forest ownership and tenure in the UNECE region.*
 - b. *Indicate the main gaps in the knowledge on forest ownership/tenure that have to be addressed in the new reporting;*