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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

#### Seventy-fourth session

Geneva, 18-20 October 2016

Item 5(d) of the provisional agenda

#### Reporting and implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions

## Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work

### Note by the secretariat

#### *Summary*

This document provides an overview of the approach, methodology and timeline that will be used for the Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017 for the ECE Committee on Forestry and Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission. This review has to be undertaken every four years. The outcome of the Strategic Review process during 2016-2017 will determine priorities for the Integrated Programme of Work up to 2021.

## I. The Strategic Review process and the 2016-2017 Strategic Review

1. The Strategic Review (SR) is an assessment of the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) for the ECE Committee on Forestry and Forest Industry (COFFI; also "Committee") and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC; also "Commission"), covering the scope, structure and content of the programme; methods; partnerships; outputs from its implementation; and objectives and work of joint EFC and COFFI subsidiary bodies.

2. A first SR of the ECE/FAO IPoW on Timber and Forestry was undertaken in 2000, and a second in 2004. A third thorough SR took place in 2008, and resulted in

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the programme of work for the period 2008-2012. The extension of the programme's cycle by one year to 2013 made it compatible with the United Nations (UN) and FAO biennial programming structures. To maintain the cycles' alignment, the fourth review was undertaken in the period 2012-2013, and the resulting revised programme of work for 2014-2017 was adopted by COFFI and the EFC in 2013. This fifth review will be undertaken in the period 2016-2017, and the resulting revised IPoW is expected to be adopted by the Committee and the Commission in 2017 for the four-year period 2018-2021<sup>1</sup>.

3. The joint Bureaux (the Executive Committee of the EFC and the Bureau of COFFI; JB), at their meeting on 22 March 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland, reviewed the SR document and endorsed the proposed timeline for the fifth SR (Chapter III). The draft IPoW would be prepared and presented at an expert workshop at the end of 2016, in order to give member States enough time to discuss it in 2017. The Programme of Work 2018-2021 is expected to be submitted for endorsement to the next joint sessions of COFFI and the EFC in autumn 2017.

## II. Purpose and methodology

4. The main objectives of the review process are:

- (a) the evaluation of the 2014-2017 IPoW, taking into consideration the results of its implementation and past experience; and
- (b) the development of a proposal for the IPoW for 2018-2021.

5. The IPoW would then provide the basis for the 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 biennial programmes of the ECE sub-programme 7 on Forestry and Timber and the FAO Programme of Work and Budget, and the joint work of the Committee and the Commission for the same years.

6. Based on experience gained from the previous review, it is proposed that the following principles be taken into account:

- The review should be as broad as necessary, covering scope, structure and content of the programme; methods; partnerships; outputs from its implementation; and objectives and work of the EFC and COFFI joint subsidiary bodies.
- It should be as inclusive as possible, through an all-encompassing process addressing governments, the private sector and civil society at large, research and academic institutions, and other partners participating in the work of the ECE and the FAO in the region.
- A survey with open questions should be used, allowing respondents not only to provide feedback on relevance and output, but also to elaborate on specific topics and provide comments and suggestions for future thematic areas and work and input into the new programme.
- The review process should be open and transparent, ensuring that the results will be publicly available and posted on the Joint Section's website. Individual inputs will be kept confidential.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2018-2021 IPoW would then cover the UN Programme Plan and the FAO biennials of 2018-2019 and 2020-2021.

- The review should be forward-looking. While it needs to assess and learn from the past, it should be oriented towards identifying and addressing new challenges and reviewing and structuring the IPoW as appropriate.
- It should make use of various means to gather the opinions and input of different stakeholders.

7. In particular, the following would be used:

#### **A. Survey**

8. The review should make use of a survey, to be made available in English and Russian, to be shared with the relevant stakeholders. The survey will have open-ended questions, allowing respondents to provide ideas and comments on future work.

9. It is suggested that one comprehensive questionnaire be produced and shared with all relevant stakeholders. The secretariat will then compile the results of the questionnaire and use this as a basis for discussion in review meetings and in the preparation of the proposal for the new programme. A draft set of open questions for the survey is available in Annex I.

#### **B. Evaluation of the work of the Teams of Specialists**

10. An SR of the Team of Specialists' (ToS) work will be undertaken collectively, under the management of the secretariat, by the respective ToS, through consultations using the survey questionnaire.

11. The results of these exchanges should also feed into the overall review process.

#### **C. Assessment by the secretariat of work and outputs**

12. The ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section benefits from the hands-on involvement of managing and implementing the programme of work, and is often aware of challenges encountered in its execution. It is, therefore, proposed that the results of a secretariat internal review of the 2014-2017 IPoW and its implementation, as well as ideas for the future development of the 2018-2021 IPoW, be compiled and made available for review. This is not intended to be a self-evaluation, but more an assessment of challenges faced by the secretariat in implementing the IPoW, an evaluation of the structure of the IPoW, and suggestions for possible improvements.

#### **D. Meetings with COFFI and the EFC and their subsidiary bodies to discuss the SR and the new IPoW**

13. The involvement of COFFI and the EFC and their subsidiary bodies, in particular the ECE/FAO Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (JWP), in the SR process and in the development of the new 2018-2021 IPoW proposal is listed under item III.

### III. Timeline

14. The following schedule is proposed for the review process:

#### **Phase I: review of the 2014-2017 IPoW**

- a) 15 February to 15 March 2016
  - Discussions on the methodology and scope of the SR.
- b) 15 to 30 March 2016
  - Discussion on the SR roadmap, review of the draft questionnaire for the IPoW stakeholders' survey at the JB meeting (22 March 2016), approval of the Strategic Survey roadmap on the preparation of the 2018-2021 IPoW.
  - Information on the SR of the IPoW at the JWP.
- c) June to August 2016
  - The questionnaire is shared with stakeholders in June, and returned to the secretariat by the end of August.
- d) 1 September to 10 October 2016
  - The secretariat prepares its assessment of work and outputs.
  - Completion of the IPoW stakeholders' survey, compilation of survey results, and their posting on the website by the secretariat.
- e) October 2016
  - Consideration of the results of the SR of the 2014-2017 IPoW and the results of the IPoW stakeholders' survey by the JB.
  - Presentation of the SR process and the results of the stakeholders' survey by the secretariat at the COFFI session for further inputs and discussion on the future programme.
- f) November 2016
  - The secretariat's first draft of the new IPoW, after JB review, will be shared with member States and other stakeholders.
  - Organization of a special workshop and discussion of the first draft of the 2018-2021 IPoW with the participation of interested stakeholders and members of the JB (21-22 November 2016).

#### **Phase II: preparation of the 2018-2021 IPoW**

- a) January 2017
  - JB's first draft of the 2018-2021 IPoW to be shared with member States and other stakeholders.
- b) May 2017
  - JB's second draft to be discussed with stakeholders at the JWP, and afterwards by the JB for final review.
- c) June/July 2017
  - JB's final draft to be completed before mid-July 2017.

- d) October 2017
    - Joint sessions of COFFI and the EFC finalize and adopt the new 2018-2021 IPoW.
  - e) January 2018
    - Implementation of the new IPoW begins.
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