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**Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on  
 Forest Statistics, Economics and Management  
 Fortieth session**  
 Geneva, 22-23 March 2018  
 Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

**GUIDANCE ON WORK AREA 1: DATA, MONITORING, REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT**

AGENDA ITEM 4 (a)

Note by the Secretariat

*Summary*

In accordance with its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to Work Area 1: Data, Monitoring, Reporting and Assessment. This document provides information about activities in this work area since the Working Party's last session in March 2017, as well as plans for the 2018, drawing the Working Party's attention to any specific issues where guidance is needed. Activities in Work Area 1 for the year 2019 will be made available in document 5 and discussed under Agenda Item 5.

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## I. Forest Resources

### A. Data collection

#### **Global Reporting on Forests and Sustainable Forest Management**

1. The Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section (Joint Section) provided feedback and participated in the relevant initiatives and meetings in support of the implementation and reporting on: (i) the 2030 Agenda<sup>1</sup>, (ii) the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution E/2015/33<sup>2</sup> “International arrangement on forests beyond 2015” and (iii) the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030<sup>3</sup>.

#### ***Sustainable Development Goals Indicators***

2. The global indicator framework, developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), was agreed upon at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Statistical Commission held in March 2017<sup>4</sup>. The global indicator framework, which consists of 232 indicators for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets, was adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017 and is contained in the Resolution on Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/71/313<sup>5</sup>).
3. The set includes several forest-related indicators, including those related to two targets focusing on forests (15.1 and 15.2): indicator 15.1.1. (Forest area as a proportion of total land area) and indicator 15.2.1 (Progress toward sustainable forest management). Indicator 15.2.1 is composed of five sub-indicators of sustainable forest management: (i) forest area net change rate, (ii) above-ground biomass stock in forest, (iii) proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas, (iv) proportion of forest area under a long term forest management plan, and (v) forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme.
4. To facilitate implementation of the global indicator framework, all indicators are classified by the IAEG-SDGs into three tiers on the basis of their level of methodological development and the availability of data at the global level. Both forest-related indicators under SDG 15, were classified at the highest level, Tier I<sup>6</sup> (“Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant”).
5. Development of the SDG forest-related indicators has been supported by an informal inter-agency group coordinated by FAO (custodian agency), with participation of the Joint Section. It is also expected that FAO, primarily through the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), will coordinate the international reporting for these two indicators. More information about the metadata and reported values is available at <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/en/>.

#### ***Global Core Set of forest related indicators***

6. The work on forest-related indicators under the 2030 Agenda, the International Arrangement on Forests and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, as well as work on the 2020 cycle of the FRA, created an enabling environment to address forest-related reporting challenges, including the development of global forest indicators that require a concerted action.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

<sup>2</sup> <http://undocs.org/E/RES/2015/33>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/UNSPF\\_AdvUnedited.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/UNSPF_AdvUnedited.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/313>

<sup>6</sup> IAEG-SDG 4th meeting: There is agreement on the components of the indicator 15.2.1, with limited data availability for some components (classified as Tier II)

7. The process for the development of a core set of global forest-related indicators, (initiated at the World Forestry Conference in Durban, September 2015), was guided by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Task Force. In addition to the Task Force meetings, the process included several international consultations, including a workshop in Ottawa, Canada (May 2016), an Organisation-Led Initiative (OLI) of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in Rome (November 2016) and the Expert Consultation on FRA 2020, in Joensuu, Finland (June 2017). The work was concluded in Rome (December 2017), with a final proposal for the core set of global forest-related indicators.
8. The proposal consists of 21 indicators, including all forest-related SDG indicators and sub-indicators. The set refers to other forest-related targets and SDGs, United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and other forest-related global processes. Furthermore, the Task Force assessed the proposed indicators on the basis on their level of methodological development and the availability of data (tiers). In addition the Task Force indicated areas for future work.
9. The Joint Section contributed to the work of the Task Force, participating in the all major events and consultations relating to the global cores set of indicators. The outcome of the process will be presented to the CPF for possible next steps, including submission of the Global Core Set to the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNFF in May 2018.

***National reporting on implementation of the UNSPF***

10. The discussion on the format for voluntary national reporting on implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI) was initiated in a workshop in Brasilia, Brazil (February 2017). The first draft was reviewed at the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNFF in New York (May 2017), which decided on launching a voluntary pilot reporting. Based on the results of the pilot implementation and the feedback received, the UNFF Secretariat organized an Expert Meeting on Reporting to the UNFF in Nairobi, Kenya (November 2017).
11. The Nairobi meeting reviewed the second draft, which will be presented to the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of UNFF, scheduled for May 2018, for review and possible approval. In addition, the meeting formulated several recommendations on: (i) the elaboration of the UNFF flagship report focused on progress towards the Global Forest Goals and Targets (to be issued in 2021), (ii) the schedule for the preparation a flagship report and related reporting, and (c) development of reporting guidelines.
12. The Joint Section took part in this work, providing support and assistance, in particular in ensuring that new proposals are compatible with the existing global and regional reporting formats.

**Global Forest Resource Assessment / Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ)**

13. The work, led by FAO, on the preparation of the 2020 reporting continued. FRA is based on two sources of data: (i) country reports, which are prepared by national correspondents, and (ii) satellite-based estimates which serve as independent references at regional and global levels. The Joint Section took an active part in the preparation of the national reporting, which for the first time will be carried out jointly with the pan-European reporting on SFM, aiming at the reducing further reporting burdens on countries and increasing data consistency across participating organizations
14. Major work was focused on the development of the revised national reporting format, to satisfy the needs of the global forest-related processes and organizations as well as regional partners cooperating with FRA in the framework of the CFRQ<sup>7</sup>. The new questionnaire was supposed to be more focused, and reduce reporting burden on countries. The current reporting on global forest resources is in close coordination with other global and regional organizations and processes, including UNFF and the 2030 Agenda.

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<sup>7</sup> FAO, the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC/OFAC), FAO Forestry (FRA), Forest Europe, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Montréal Process and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

15. The revised questionnaire was developed in consultation with national and international experts. The main input to this process was provided through the FRA2020 Expert Consultation organized in Joensuu, Finland (June 2017). The proposal submitted to Joensuu was reviewed by the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM in Tromsø, Norway (May 2017).
16. While developing the specifications on the content and definitions for the 2020 cycle, the FAO took nominations for FRA national correspondents and made available the reporting formats, including a new interactive interface.
17. The new FRA reporting cycle will be launched at the global workshop "FRA 2020 Technical meeting of National Correspondents and CFRQ partners", on 5-9 March 2018 in Toluca de Lerdo, Mexico, and the collection of national data is expected to be completed by the end 2018. The review of the process will involve the regional organization and experts, through a series of regional consultations. The regional workshop for countries of North America, Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia will be held in Geneva on 18-20 April 2018, and is organized jointly by the FAO FRA secretariat, the Joint Section and the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava. The workshop will cover both the global and regional reporting for 2020.
18. In 2018 the Joint Section's contribution to this work will focus on working with national correspondents in the framework of the global and regional (for countries of Forest Europe) reporting. This work will be done in close cooperation and coordination with the FAO FRA secretariat and the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava.

**Joint FOREST EUROPE/UNECE/FAO reporting on sustainable forest management**

19. The Joint Section worked together with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava, in close cooperation with the FAO FRA secretariat and other organizations, on the content and arrangements for the 2020 cycle of pan-European reporting that is undertaken jointly with the global FRA 2020 data collection.<sup>8</sup>
20. The preparatory work focused on completing national questionnaires, reporting formats, organization of data collection and coordination with FRA.
21. The 2020 pan-European data collection is undertaken, similarly to previous processes, with the use of two questionnaires – on quantitative and qualitative indicators. The latter will cover also reporting on the goals for European forests and the European 2020 targets for forests. National reporting will be coordinated jointly by the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava and the Joint Section, in close coordination with the FAO FRA secretariat. The Joint Section, in cooperation with the Liaison Unit, plans to focus on the review of the quantitative questionnaire, while the Liaison Unit will lead the collection process of qualitative data.
22. The work on the 2020 reporting format for quantitative indicators included the review and update of the formats, definitions, classifications and reporting guidelines. This work was carried out jointly with the Liaison Unit Bratislava who led work on developing reporting formats for new and revised indicators. These issues were discussed at the:
  - a. ECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on Monitoring SFM, held in Tromsø, Norway, 22-24 May 2017;
  - b. Forest Europe Advisory Group on the Preparation of the Report "State of Europe's Forests", Bratislava, Slovakia, 27-28 September 2017;
  - c. Forest Europe Expert Group on Implementation of Updated pan-European Indicators for SFM, Vienna Austria, 17-18 October 2017.
23. The work for 2018 will be focused on the collection of national data. The collection of the FRA and the pan-European data will be done through two interfaces (despite efforts to have one interface), however all effort will be made to facilitate reporting of the overlapping variables. Whenever possible, overlapping terms, definitions and reporting formats between these two

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<sup>8</sup> The previous data on the Pan-European reporting (2015) is available at <http://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en>; figures on the use of these data are available in document 4c.

systems were made consistent. Similar to the 2015 process, data from a country will be reviewed by one person to ensure data consistency between both systems.

24. The schedule for the pan-European data collection is the same as for the global one, and is described in para 17. The national data collection process will be followed by the verification of the data reported by the International Data Providers (second half of 2018).
25. The proposal for the joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe data collection on forests and sustainable forest management in the region was presented to Las2017 in Warsaw, Poland, in October 2017. The Commission and the Committee “requested FAO and ECE to continue to work together with Forest Europe to implement the joint data collection (...) and coordinate it with the global reporting to the extent possible in a cost effective manner.”
26. The Joint Section would like to express its appreciation for the excellent cooperation with the FAO FRA secretariat and the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava on the joint reporting. The Section also expresses its gratitude to all national and international experts, who contributed to the development of the new reporting formats, and the Russian Federation and Norway for their financial support.

## **B. Assessment and Reporting**

### **Pilot application of the System for Evaluation of the Management of Forests**

27. The work on the development of the System for Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR) and its pilot application was concluded. The results were published in the ECE/FAO Geneva Timber and Forest Discussion Paper 66 “Pilot project on the System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR)”. The development and the pilot application of the method was made possible by the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland and Switzerland.
28. Principles, results, experiences and conclusions from the process were presented to Las2017. The Committee and the Commission welcomed the information presented and appreciated the work done. Moreover, the Committee and the Commission “underlined the importance of the pilot study. The tool was considered useful for developing a methodology for assessing sustainable forest management at the national level. However, several technical issues and the tool’s political dimension (e.g. definition of common thresholds)” remain areas of concern. The Las2017 participants “discussed possible follow up action to the project, but no specific activity was agreed upon”. (ECE/TIM/2017/2)

### **Forest ownership in the ECE region**

29. The Joint Section has continued to work on forest ownership (since reporting on the topic at the last session of the Joint Working Party) in close cooperation with experts of the COST Action project “Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe - Significance for Management and Policy” (FACESMAP).
30. The Joint Section carried out the final processing and review of the data collected. As a result, an interactive database (in English and Russian) was produced and will be launched with the release of the study (mid-2018). The validated country data was used for the first set of output tables to be used for drafting the publication.
31. The drafting process is led by Ms. Anna Lawrence, the coordinating lead author of the study and includes leading specialists on the topic. The first draft of the study was completed in February 2018 and should be finalized by mid 2018.
32. The Joint Section thanks the COST Action, its leader, Mr. Gerhard Weiss, as well as Ms. Anna Lawrence (coordinating lead author) and all authors and experts involved in the production of the study for their engagement, cooperation and commitment to this work. The Joint Section would like to express its gratitude to the Russian Federation and the European State Forests Association (EUSTAFOR) for their financial support.

**C. Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management**

33. The ECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on Monitoring SFM met in Tromsø, Norway 22-24 May 2017. Thirty experts from 18 countries took part in the meeting (Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States) and partner organizations - the FAO Forestry Department, the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Forest Institute (EFI), the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava, Process and Reaktor Group Oy.
34. The meeting was an important step in the review of national questionnaires for the global (Forest Resources Assessment) and regional (pan-European) forest reporting, as it initiated the discussion for the 2020 cycle. More information about these processes can be found in part I.A of this document.
35. The meeting in Tromsø concluded the Team's work under the 2013-2017 mandate. The work of the Team in this four year period included support to the:
  - a. Pan-European reporting on forests and forest management 2015 and 2020;
  - b. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 and 2020;
  - c. System for the Evaluation of Management of Forests – pilot application;
  - d. Publication on Forests in the UNECE Region – report for UNFF;
  - e. Forest ownership reporting – data collection.
36. The Team of Specialists and the Joint Section express their gratitude to the hosts, the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research and the County Governor of Troms, for the invitation, support and exceptional hospitality offered to the Team. The report of the meeting and all presentations can be found at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45314>.
37. The first (twenty-sixth) meeting of the ECE/FAO ToS on Monitoring SFM under the new 2018-2019 mandate will be held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 21-23 February 2018, in conjunction with the UNDA/ UNECE/FAO Regional workshop on "Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia". The Tbilisi meeting will include a separate session for the Team, to discuss plans for the biennium and to conclude work on the 2020 questionnaires. Most of the meeting will be dedicated to the work of the Criteria & Indicators workshop, with the objective to (i) support the project countries in their C&I development, (ii) establish contact and possible cooperation between the project countries and other countries/organizations in the region for C&I implementation, and (iii) disseminate information about the ToS in the Caucasus and Central Asia. More information about the meeting can be found at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47979>.

**D. Key questions for guidance and discussion**

38. The Working Party is invited to:
  - a. *Take note on the processes and preparations for the 2020 global and regional reporting, and made recommendations on the organization of the 2020 data collection;*
  - b. *Review the work of the Team of Specialists and made recommendations for its work under the new mandate.*

## **II. Forest Products' production, trade and consumption**

### **A. Data and assessment**

39. Website statistics continue to show that data and statistics are the main reasons for visits to the Joint Section website. Of the five most downloaded files, three are related to statistics, with the price statistics being the most downloaded file. See the agenda item 4(c) document for further details.

#### **Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ)**

40. 37 replies were received to the questionnaire for 2016, compared to 38 last year, the lowest since 2013. The number of data points remained roughly stable, as shown in annex A.
41. These data were published in the Forest Products Annual Market Review 2016-17, in the statistical annex accompanying it and through FAOSTAT (updated in August and December 2017).
42. Other forest products data for 2016 have not yet been published. Price statistics were updated during summer 2017. The price statistics continue to attract a high level of interest on our website. Trade flow data for eight product groups were published, showing trade by value between countries and regions.
43. The expected accomplishments used by the UN to evaluate the performance of the Joint Section include "Improved monitoring and assessment of the forest sector, to support sustainable forest management". The table in the annex shows the results for the last 20 years for one element of this indicator, the replies to the JFSQ. The "% Satisfactory" column is the number of countries supplying official data for at least 80% of the possible cells on JQ1 and JQ2, divided by the total number of countries in the ECE region. The target approved by the UN General Assembly for 2016-2017 is 70%.

#### **Timber Forecast Questionnaire (TFQ)**

44. The Joint Section published forecasts from 35 countries, equalling the highest level of replies. The amount of data supplied declined, indicating that countries that did reply for this year, which had not replied in earlier years, had less access to data.
45. The forecasts were made available at the meeting of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, were incorporated into the Market Statement, and were subsequently published on-line in 2017 in Excel and PDF format and as a Discussion Paper.

#### **International issues**

46. Cooperation between the four organizations (the International Tropical Timber Organization, Eurostat, the FAO and the ECE) that collect data through the JFSQ is conducted through the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG). The organizations plan to meet in February 2018 in Luxembourg (more information at [www.unece.org/index.php?id=23657](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=23657)). The meeting will be dedicated to the preparations for the 2017 JFSQ to be issued this year and updating the cross-references for the Harmonised System 2017. The IWG will also review activities in 2017 and make preparations for this year's reporting cycle.
47. The FAO participated in the May and December 2017 meetings of the Harmonised Review Subcommittee, with ECE represented at the December meeting. The agreed proposals for the 2022 Harmonised System classification were presented at these meetings and discussed by national delegates. By and large these have been accepted although the complete proposal will be reviewed again at the June 2018 meeting. Engineered wood products (Laminated Veneer Lumber – LVL, Glue Laminated Timber – Glulam, Cross-Laminated Timber – CLT and I-beams) need additional research.

### **B. Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics**

48. The Team met once, just prior to the 2017 Working Party meeting. The report of the meeting is available at [www.unece.org/index.php?id=44971](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44971). During the year members of the Team discussed via email a number of issues including measurements, conversion factors and revisions to the

Harmonized System of the World Customs Organization. The Team also contributed, with comments and in person, to the Wood Resources Balance Workshop in December 2017.

49. The Team will report to the Working Party following its planned 21 March 2018 meeting. The agenda of this meeting is available at [www.unece.org/index.php?id=47909](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47909).

### C. Forest products market assessment

#### The Forest Products Annual Market Review

50. The Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) 2016-2017 was completed on 8 August 2017, and the English version was on the Joint Section's website in mid-August 2017. It was available in print and distributed to delegates of the Joint EFC/COFFI meeting just ahead of the market discussions, which were held on 9-12 October 2017 in Warsaw, Poland. The Russian language version will be available shortly. As has been the case for several years now, the French version of the 2017 FPAMR is not likely to be available until late 2018.
51. The FPAMR 2017 was made possible by funding from the Russian Federation, significant in-kind contributions from many authors, and assistance from two interns from the University of Helsinki. Its production was managed by the Joint Section, and received input from over 100 national statistical correspondents and contributors.
52. Many authors and reviewers for the publication are members of the ECE/FAO ToS on Sustainable Forest Products. In addition, the ToS on Sustainable Forest Products provided authors and expertise for the production of the Review and the Team Leader provided substantial support in the reviewing and proofreading of the final version.
53. The FPAMR 2017 included a special chapter on "Forest product trade restrictions affecting the UNECE region". The secretariat proposes "High performance buildings and wood" as the topic of the special chapter in the 2018. The chapter will provide a short overview on the legislative frameworks that drive construction to become more demanding in terms of energy efficiency, embodied energy, air tightness, resistance to fire, and how wood fits in this developing trend. The chapter will build on the information contained in the Study Paper on *Promoting sustainable building materials and the implications on the use of wood in buildings* and will provide an update on progress made since.

#### Market Statements

54. The Joint Section invited member States to prepare country market statements as background for the COFFI annual meeting. 20 countries submitted statements, which are available on the website (<http://www.unece.org/forests/market-statements-2017.html>). These provide a level of country-specific detail on forest products markets, and the economic and policy contexts affecting them.
55. The Market Discussion at Las2017, included expert presentations and focused on current forest products trends. During the discussion, there was an emphasis on the importance of forests and wood products to mitigate climate change and, more broadly, on providing products that meet society's desire to live sustainably. Wooden buildings have great potential for storing carbon as well as reducing carbon emissions over the entire life-cycle of the structure. Experts informed delegates that effective mitigation strategies involve sustainable forest management and the use of long-lasting products for carbon storage and substitution of carbon intensive materials. Sustainable forest management and the use of sustainable wood products is a win-win situation for forest industries to prosper and to contribute to sustainable consumption and production.
56. The secretariat, guided by member States, developed the market statement of the Joint Session at LAS2017 reflecting all the information provided by member states and experts in one document (Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire, Timber Forecast Questionnaire, Country Market Statements and Market Discussions). The market statement can be found in the annex of the LAS2017 meeting report (ECE/TIM/2017/2-FO:EFC/2017/2). Some of the main points of the market statement were also used for a press release with the title: "*UN says that growing more forest and the use of long-lasting forest products are currently the most effective forms of carbon capture*" and were repeated by a few newspapers and relevant journals.

57. Plan for 2018 is to create a single source website with country by country related information on forest products markets. This project receives financial support by Finland.

**Cascading use of wood**

58. The cascading use of wood was highlighted as one of the possible tasks by the Joint UNECE/FAO forestry and Timber Section in the *Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy*. In the past four years, the issue of cascading use was discussed in many different fora, while the Joint Section limited its work to only one presentation to the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in Kazan, Russian Federation in 2014.
59. The Directorate General on Growth, European Commission also contacted the Joint Section, informing the secretariat that the Commission has been asked by member countries to provide “Guidance on the Cascading Use of Biomass”. This activity is intended to contribute to the Circular Economy Action Plan of the European Commission and aims at promoting efficient use of bio-based resources through a series of measures, which includes best practices on the cascading use of biomass and support for innovation in the bio-economy. The effort is likely to culminate in a publication on “best practice examples of cascading use in the forest sector” in autumn 2018.
60. This action has the potential for creating an opportunity for developing a joint publication or output similar to *Good practice guidance on the sustainable mobilisation of wood in Europe*<sup>9</sup>. The Joint Section could provide an overview on best practice examples from ECE member States other than the EU and compile an overview.

**D. COFFI 2018, 5-9 November, Vancouver, Canada**

61. At the kind invitation of the Government of Canada, the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) will take place in Vancouver from 5-9 November 2018. Currently, the COFFI Bureau is developing the agenda of the meeting. The agenda will be presented to the Working Party to seek suggestions on how to develop relevant sessions, initiatives and identify potential speakers. Forest products, wood construction and trade are planned to be key topics of this meeting.

**E. Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products**

The ToS on Sustainable Forest Products met on 28 March 2017 and 11 October 2017. The ToS was instrumental in the preparation and review of the FPAMR 2016-2017 and assisting with the agenda for the Market Discussions in Geneva.

**F. Key questions on data assessment for guidance and discussion**

62. The Working Party is invited to:
- a. *Encourage replies to the JFSQ 2017 in time for the use of data in the FPAMR;*
  - b. *Indicate its views on the proposed changes for HS 2022 and if these should be supported by national administrations;*
  - c. *Comment on the content, quality and timeliness of the Forest Products Annual Market Review;*
  - d. *Provide feedback on topics, both present and future, to include in the special chapter of the Review;*
  - e. *Provide guidance on how to further develop the work on the cascading use of wood.*
  - f. *Provide input to the agenda of COFFI 2018.*

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<sup>9</sup> [www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/publications/wood-mobilization-good-practice-guidance.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/publications/wood-mobilization-good-practice-guidance.pdf)

### III. Wood Energy

#### A. Data collection

63. The secretariat presented the first data on wood energy supply and use for the reference year 2015 to the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Working Party. In 2017 the Section collected the initial replies to the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry for the reference year 2015 (JWEE2015). 33 replies were received, a significant increase over the last round. These replies have been reviewed. Follow-up questions have been provided to correspondents and replies to these are currently being received. The secretariat will finalize analysing the data and will present the results to the Working Party. The outcomes of the JWEE2015 information will be included in the upcoming publication on Wood Energy in the UNECE region that will be published in spring 2018. The secretariat will be upload country overviews to the website of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section prior to the meeting.
64. The Joint Working Party, during its thirty-first session, asked the secretariat to conduct the data collection on wood energy on a two year cycle (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2009/10). The secretariat will therefore start preparing the data collection process on wood energy supply and consumption for the reference year 2017 (JWEE2017) and proposes to launch the JWEE2017 in October 2018.
65. The secretariat would like to thank the Team of Specialists on wood energy for their constructive input and support to further improve the structure of the JWEE2017 during its fourth meeting held in Durham, North Carolina ([www.unece.org/index.php?id=45290](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45290)). The secretariat believes that the structure of the enquiry is quite mature and could be used with minor changes in the next round of the data collection. The secretariat, would like to highlight that the focus for improving the visibility and use of data from the JWEE is to improve the output side – the database and accessibility of the results.
66. The current presentation of JWEE results in an interactive xlsx file will be discontinued and the secretariat will only provide country profiles in PDF. The success of the enquiry – 10 years of data collection – led to more than 270,000 datapoints and a complex system of interconnected tables and calculations. In order to access any data from the JWEE2013 and earlier, users need to download and open a file exceeding 40 Mega Bytes. This current procedure does not allow for any quick and easy access to information – in particular for users who only are interested in partial information – be it by country, source, etc. In addition to the user side, the current preparation of data in the current format requires significant resources from the secretariat. The secretariat proposes preparing the dataset of past and future outcomes of the JWEE's so that data are available in the database of the UNECE statistics, similar to the dataset on forest resources (<http://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en>).

#### B. Data assessment

67. The publication “Wood Energy in the ECE Region: Data Trends and Outlook in Europe, CIS and North America” was finalized and is now being processed by the printing section of the UN. It is expected to be released in spring 2018. The publication will contain latest information from the JWEE2015. The secretariat would like to express its gratitude to the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy and all the authors for their contribution and thanks Finland for the financial and in kind contribution to the report.

#### C. Cross-sectoral cooperation

68. The secretariat would like to highlight again the great success of the film on “More heat with less wood”. The film on the efficient use of wood for heating in private households was launched on 23 March 2016, during the thirty eighth session of the Working Party and has now become the fourth most successful video on UNECE's Youtube account (more than 13,000 views). Cross/sectoral cooperation with other ECE Divisions and relevant UN organisations, such as the World Health Organization were key for making the product such a great success.
69. The Joint Forestry and Timber Section, has been asked to contribute to a thematic session on residential heating as a source of air pollution during the Fifty-sixth session of the Working Group

on Strategies and Review. This event is likely to attract some interest by the media and the secretariat is considering launching the publication on wood energy during that period.

**D. Team of Specialists on Wood Energy**

70. The secretariat serviced the fourth meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Wood Energy held from 17 - 19 May 2017 in Durham, North Carolina, ([www.unece.org/index.php?id=45290](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45290)). The team members mainly discussed the content of the different chapters of the upcoming publication on wood energy in the ECE region.
71. Initially the team planned to hold their next meeting on 21 March 2018. However, due to lack of resources, the secretariat was not able to service the meeting on that date and therefore organized a short telephone conference call with the core group of the ToS on Wood Energy on 05 February 2018 in order to agree on the date and place of the next meeting. The current plan is to hold a ToS meeting back to back with the IUFRO conference "Transformations Towards a New Era in Small Scale Forestry" to be held in Vaasa from 11-15 June 2018. Details of the Team meeting will be given to the Team when confirmed.

**E. Key questions on wood energy data assessment for guidance and discussion;**

72. Delegates are invited to:
- a. *How to further improve the update of JWEE data in energy and forestry statistics and reporting (Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire/FAO statistics, Forest Resources Assessment, State of Europe's Forests, Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Environmental Performance Reviews, etc )*
  - b. *Provide guidance on any other aspects or the Joint Section's work on wood energy.*

## IV. Annex

### A. Replies to the Questionnaires

Questionnaire		Year Questionnaire Sent			
		2014	2015	2016	2017
JFSO	Total replies	43	45	38	37
	JQ1 (production) - replies	16+26	44	38	37
	% of cells filled (of 70)	53	65	79	72
	JQ2 (trade) - replies	16+26	38	35	35
	% of cells filled (of 248)	71	86	98	98
	JQ3 (sec. prod. trade) - replies	15+23	37	29	28
	% of cells filled (of 40)	66	95	95	96
	EU/ECE (species trade) - replies	11+21	35	23	26
% of cells filled (of 84)	83	92	95	91	
TFO	TC1 (roundwood forecast) - replies	32	35	29	35
	% of cells filled (of 21)	90	81	91	80
	TC2 (product forecast) - replies	30	35	29	35
	% of cells filled (of 45/48)*	93	82	94	81
JWEE	Total replies	27		33	
	Table 3 (wood fuel) - replies	12		18	
	Average number of cells filled	12		4	
	Table 4 (uses) - replies	26		30	
	Average number of cells filled	17		20	

There are a total of 56 member countries. For the JFSQ, “% of cells filled” applies only to non-EU/EFTA replies for 2014.

The first two tables on JWEE are not included, as they are partially prefilled.

\* The change in the number of cells filled started in 2015 for TC2.

**B. Indicators of Achievement**

<b>Data for Year</b>	<b>% Satisfactory*</b>
1992	62.2
1993	60.8
1994	61.5
1995	59.6
1996	55.8
1997	55.8
1998	51.9
1999	59.6
2000	63.5
2001	69.2
2002	71.2
2003	65.4
2004	69.2
2005	69.2
2006	73.6
2007	79.2
2008	73.6
2009	69.8
2010	67.9
2011	62.3
2012	75.5
2013	77.4
2014	62.3
2015	58.5
2016	54.7

\* equal to or more than 80% of cells filled. See paragraph 43 for the explanation of the calculation.