

Canada



COMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND THE FOREST INDUSTRY



COFFI 2018

**BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH FORESTS
JOIN US IN VANCOUVER FOR COFFI 2018**

5-9 NOVEMBER 2018 | VANCOUVER | CANADA

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COFFI 2018

UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest industry

5-9 November 2018, Vancouver, Canada

Under the title **'Building the Future with Forests'** the next meeting of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry will focus on the transition towards a more sustainable society and a circular economy, based on the provision of forest products from sustainably managed forests.

In order to find tangible solutions to these issues, the **'Building the Future with Forests'** meeting will bring experts, policy makers, business leaders as well as national delegates together through a variety of panel discussions concentrating primarily on the challenges and opportunities for timber and forest product markets, as well as the forests and the circular economy.

Participants will also have focused dialogues on the functional and technical aspects of wood, including; the challenges and the opportunities to make wood a key material for a sustainable future and for a healthy business sector. This diversified audience has the chance to support and pave the way for policies which champion the use of wood products.

Panels discussions will cover the following topics:



Forests and the circular economy

The panel will feature presentations focusing on the circular economy and its implications for the forest sector, including examples of circular economy strategies and circular businesses.



The role of forest management

The panel will feature presentations focusing on social, environmental and economic benefits related to building a future with forests based on recent publications issued by the Joint Session, covering topics such as ecosystem services, forest ownership, wood energy and restoration of degraded land.

The panel will also discuss how forests can contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially to SDG 15 "Life on Land", which aims at protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss. Discussions will also cover ecosystem services (SDG 6); employment aspects (SDG 8); sustainable cities (SDG 11); sustainable forest products (SDG 12); and possibilities to counter the effects of climate change (SDG 13).



Wood in construction: Technical and policy developments

The panel will feature presentations focusing on functions, types and technologies of wooden buildings; such as large structures, residential buildings, earthquake resistant structures, etc. The panel will also address policy challenges and opportunities of building with wood, including; social, environmental and economic issues such as building codes (prescriptive vs. performance based), environmental performance, bio-economy and costs.



A special space for the private sector

The transition towards a circular economy cannot happen without the full involvement and commitment of the private sector. This is why during COFFI 2018 the private sector will be allocated a session to discuss the business' perspective on opportunities, risks and challenges of building with wood. The panel is meant to stimulate a constructive dialogue with Governments.



The 'traditional' Market discussions

The Committee regularly dedicates a session to discuss forest products market state and trends. Market discussions this year will focus some of the key findings from the Forest Products Annual Market Review 2017-2018. Discussions will be reflected in a Forest Products Market Statement to be adopted at the meeting.



A message to the world:

Declaration on "Forest products for a better future"

The meeting is expected to adopt a message on "Forest products for a better future". The message is a statement of intent and will be an evergreen document. The goal of the message is to garner champions in order to create a larger community of practice with various stakeholders who see the value of forest products as a key element of a green economy. The message could also help to achieve relevant SDGs.



Synergies

In order to enhance collaboration between the relevant players in the region, the COFFI meeting will take place at the Vancouver Conference Centre, sharing the venue with the annual Wood Solutions Fair of Wood WORKS! BC, a Canadian Wood Council led program with funding support from the wood industry, the federal government and provincial governments across Canada and Passive House Canada, a professional association advocating for high-performance building standards.