



**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Joint UNECE Timber Committee/FAO European Forestry Commission
Bureaux Meeting
20 February 2008, Rome**

Report

Rev. 1

Introduction

1. A joint Bureaux meeting of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission was held in Rome on 20 February 2008. Present were: Mr. B. Glavonjic (Serbia), Vice-Chairmen of the Timber Committee (TC), Messrs. A. Chaudron (France), Chairman, P. Blombäck (Sweden), J. Ilavsky (Slovakia), and Ms. C. Ferreira (Portugal), Vice-Chairpersons of the European Forestry Commission (EFC).
2. The meeting was also attended by Messrs. A.I. Sletnes, Head of the Liaison Unit Oslo of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and C. Salvignol (France), Chair of the FAO/UNECE/ILO Expert Network on Sustainable Forest Management.
3. The secretariat was represented by Mr. W. Killmann, Director, FAO Forest Products and Industries Division, Ms. V. Cram-Martos, Director, Trade and Timber Division and Mr. C. Prins, Chief, UNECE/FAO Timber Section, supported by Mr. E. Pepke and Ms. F. Hirsch. Messrs. J. Dengg, Germany, Chairman of the TC, Heikki Pajuoja, Vice-Chairman of the TC, and V. Sasse, FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEUR) sent regrets for being unable to attend.

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the agenda

4. The provisional agenda was adopted as proposed.

Agenda item 2: Arrangements for chairing the meeting

5. In the absence of the Chairman of the UNECE Timber Committee, the meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the FAO European Forestry Commission.

Agenda item 3: Strategic Review and Plan of the UNECE/FAO programme on Timber and Forestry: Progress Report, Proposals and Next Steps

6. The meeting was opened by Mr. Wulf Killmann, Director, FAO Forest Products and Industries Division, on behalf of Mr. Jan Heino, Director, FAO Forestry Department, and Ms. Virginia Cram-Martos, Director, UNECE Trade and Timber Divisions, who welcomed participants to the meeting on Strategic Review of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work on timber and forestry. Mr. Killmann welcomed this first meeting of the joint Bureaux at FAO Headquarters in Rome. Ms. Cram-Martos highlighted the work of the integrated programme as a model of cooperation with member states and partners, and the Strategic Review process as exemplary in terms of programme evaluation, possible due to the commitment of experts from member States, partners and staff.

I. Progress report

7. Mr. Kit Prins, Chief, UNECE/FAO Timber Section, introduced the objectives of the meeting at this stage of the Strategic Review process: receiving feedback and honest and realistic guidance on the basis of proposals by the secretariat for a draft work programme, for incorporation into the documents to be prepared for the Special Session on the Strategic Review of the TC/EFC integrated programme of work on timber and forestry, 28-30 April 2008, to enable discussion of the draft Strategic Plan 2008-13 with member State representatives.
8. Mr. Prins explained that the Strategic Review was prepared for approximately one year, the process having been previously discussed by the Bureaux and approved by the Timber Committee at its 65th session. He explained that an important number of responses to the Strategic Review questionnaire were received and while the views expressed are not complete and some of the more important replies were received late, the inputs received from countries, stakeholders and the leaders of the Teams of Specialists and the Joint ECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network on Implementing Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) are satisfactory. Mr. Prins expressed his gratitude to the enthusiastic and positive country inputs and to colleagues in the Geneva-based team who contributed to the process. He explained that all inputs were duly considered by the UNECE/FAO Timber Section during a one-day brainstorming session, and that on this basis, the proposals reflected in the background note were developed.

II. Main issues

II.1 Main policy topics 2008-2013

9. Mr. Prins drew attention to the list of policy topics included in the background note, which emerged from the country and stakeholder responses to the Strategic Review enquiry, and was complemented by the secretariat:
 - Climate change and forests/bioenergy/wood mobilisation (which may be seen as different facets of one large issue: “the role of the forest sector in a world profoundly modified by climate change, rise of fossil fuel costs and concerns for energy security”)
 - Sustainable forest management: (indicators, technical norms and standards, economic viability) and monitoring of forest resource
 - Conservation and biodiversity

- Forest fires
 - Sector policies and institutions (adaptation to changing circumstances)
 - Forest products markets
 - Cross sectoral coordination/cooperation
 - Infrastructure and rural development
 - Public procurement policies and standards
 - Afforestation
 - Forest health
 - Deforestation (even if it has little direct effect in the UNECE region)
 - Globalisation of forest products markets and effects on the UNECE region forest sector
 - Public perception of forests and forestry
 - Governance, illegal logging and trade.
10. While this list is not exclusive and a number of different issues were also referred to (included in the summary of responses available on the website: http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/strategic_review/2007-2008/replies/replies.htm), this list should form the background for consideration of the programme's work during the next 5 years.
11. Mr. Arne Ivar Sletnes, Head, Liaison Unit Oslo, Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), thanked the secretariat for inviting the new Liaison Unit as an observer to the meeting of the joint TC/EFC Bureaux. He expects that his role in this capacity will be to provide input on the cooperation between MCPFE and UNECE/FAO, and to take back input received. He suggested mentioning in addition for consideration in the design of the new work programme the outcome of the MCPFE Ministerial Conference in Warsaw, which highlighted important political issues. Mr. Peter Blombäck, Sweden, also referred to other bodies and mechanisms such as FLEGT which could also be referred to.
- 12. *The Bureaux agreed that the list of policy topics identified by country correspondents, stakeholders and the secretariat, are the main topics that should form the basis for consideration of the programme's work for the next five years. It was agreed that relevant guidance was also provided by the Warsaw MCPFE Ministerial Conference through its Declaration and the resolutions on "Forests, Wood and Energy" and "Forests and Water."***

II.2 Major objectives of the UNECE/FAO programme

13. Mr. Prins explained that broad consensus prevailed in the responses of countries and the Teams of Specialists that the broad programme objectives should be maintained. One country, Germany, made an explicit suggestion to reflect the concept of the material and energy use of wood in the expected accomplishments of the programme and the Terms of Reference of the Committee. ***The Bureaux agreed that the broad programme objectives should be maintained, while the concept of both "material and energy use" of wood can be specifically mentioned.***
14. Four issues were identified by countries as requiring specific attention and reference: climate change, bioenergy, national forest programmes (nfps) and technical aspects of implementing SFM. Whereas the first three issues are already addressed by the

- programme, they could be more explicitly referenced in the title of the one of the five work areas or at the level of programme elements.
15. Addressing technical aspects of SFM would represent a significant change of the current programme design: While it would be useful to concentrate more efforts in this field, and is also in line with the outcome of UNFF, it has be considered whether the integrated programme should and can devote resources to this task and develop and attract the relevant skills. The Bureaux were requested to consider how this could be done, on the basis of the proposal received from Sweden.
 16. Mr. Blombäck, Sweden, explained that this proposal results from consultations held with stakeholders in Sweden, during which forest owners referred to a gap of activities with regard to the implementation of technical aspects of SFM. In the past, this work has partly been covered by the ECE/FAO/ILO Joint Expert Network on Implementing SFM (in the following referred to as “Joint Expert Network”), focused on training and education. However, the work of the Joint Expert Network on training and education should be given more prominence and visibility in the UNECE/FAO work programme, also with regard to implementation, while part of this work could be continued to be conducted under the auspices of the Joint Expert Network.
 17. Mr. Prins explained that continued reflection is needed on the resources and methods of such proposed activities, to avoid integrating an additional component in the work programme with aspirations but without resources, means and methods. Until present, the Expert Network, bound to have a leading role in this, has been run with little secretariat support.
 18. Mr. Killmann remarked that the focus on implementation is a central part of FAO’s work and that it would support the integration of this component in the integrated programme and work towards its realization, together with its sub-regional offices in Budapest and Ankara.
 19. Ms. Ferreira, Portugal, supported the idea of giving increased attention to the technical implementation aspects of SFM. She explained that in the FAO technical papers, foresters often find good information for problems in other regions than Europe. Ideally, FAO expertise should be used and combined with the expertise of the Joint Expert Network. Ms. Cram-Martos explained that issues with regard to transition are often different from developing country issues and would also benefit from special attention.
 20. Mr. Blombäck suggested that work on SFM implementation be covered under the EFC. He noted that this will become increasingly important in future and explained that Sweden contributed ideas on how to support this work in future, and is currently communicating with SIDA and other agencies in this regard. He suggested also cooperating with the NFP Facility in the work in South East Europe.
 21. Mr. Christian Salvignol, Chair of the Joint Expert Network, explained that the technical implementation of SFM presents a problem for forest owners, and for forest contractors. Mr. Jan Ilavky emphasized that presently, the only available mechanism for conducting such work is the Joint Expert Network.
 22. Mr. Sletnes also offered support to the ideas of technical aspects of SFM, on the basis of Article 28 of the Warsaw Ministerial Declaration, through which MCPFE Signatory

States “further support and cooperate with countries undertaking forest sector reform, particularly those countries with economies in transition to fully incorporate the principles of sustainable forest management in their forest sectors.” It was also mentioned that nfps were stressed by the Warsaw Ministerial Conference as the main tool for implementing SFM. The question arose how cooperation with the nfp facility could be strengthened.

23. *The Bureaux agreed to reflect aspects of climate change, bioenergy and nfps in the revised programme. The Bureaux decided to further explore the feasibility of integrating “technical aspects of SFM” and to develop more specific proposals in the work programme in a small expert group, composed of Mr. Killmann, Mr. Prins, Mr. Blombäck, Mr. Salvignol, Volker Sasse and Morton Thorve, Confederation of European Private Forest Owners (CEFP), which will consult via teleconference.*

II.3 UNECE/FAO’s area of comparative advantage

24. Mr. Prins presented the reflection on the comparative advantage of the UNECE/FAO Timber Section, which have, for the first time, been written down so explicitly. These concern the UNECE/FAO Timber Section only, while the Strategic Review concerns the whole UNECE/FAO integrated programme, including the work of the FAO sub-regional offices in Budapest and Ankara. *The Bureaux expressed its agreement with the secretariat’s reflection on the areas of comparative advantage of the UNECE/FAO Timber Section.*
25. Mr. Blombäck referred to the lack of resources in some core parts of the programme and raised the question of whether within the four work areas, priorities could also be determined. He expressed specific concern with regard to the maintenance of the forest products markets capacity building work, in view of the expected departure of the expert seconded by the Forestry Commission of Great Britain as of mid-2008, and the number of specific item the Secretariat aims at taking on and raises the question whether this is feasible. Mr. Killmann also stressed the need for flexibility in programme organization through an orientation of the areas with less priority for the next years, to be able to flexibly react to sudden needs, as done by FAO.
26. Mr. Prins explained that bioenergy, for example, as complex problems calls on expertise in all four pillars of the programme and that the work on potential wood supply could be conducted on the basis of the forest resources assessment, the market analysis and statistics and the policy-related information to which the output should be linked. The forest sector outlook studies provide the conceptual framework to bring this information together and enabled the programme to rapidly respond to the emerging information need.
27. Mr. Prins explained that long term contributions to the programme like the secondment of an expert by the Forestry Commission of Great Britain and the APO provided by France would assist the Section with complementing the regular programme and sustaining some of the work undertaken to present, knowing that it is very difficult to make additional resources available through the regular budget of both UNECE and FAO. Mr. Alain Chaudron, France, supported this idea, explaining that French APO is being provided for the area of forest policy due to a special interest in this work area, and that other countries may consider doing the same. Mr. Glavonic thanked the UNECE/FAO secretariat for the activities in the Balkan region in the context of the forest products marketing work.

II.4 Issues by Work Area

28. Mr. Prins explained that the general programme structure and its intergovernmental work through the TC and EFC are seen to be functioning well. The UNECE/FAO Joint Working Party on Forest Products Economics and Statistics acts at the interface of policy and technical aspects of the work; its main tasks being to provide guidance to work areas 1 to 3; two of those have active Teams of Specialists. Active sessions of the Working Party took place in recent years, e.g. on wood energy statistics and information on illegal logging.
29. The issue of coordination of the work by the Working Party with the Teams of Specialists does, however, require review, as does the participation in the Working Party. Most countries only send one specialist on markets, resources, or outlook studies; while some have expertise in all areas. During the upcoming session of the Working Party, it will be asked to consider its own role. The continuity of the Working Party over decades has contributed to strengthening the programme.

Work Area 1: Forest Products Markets and Statistics

30. The main issue in work area 1 is the maintenance of capacity building work, developed in South East Europe by Douglas Clark, expert loaned by the UK Forestry Commission. *The Bureaux agreed with the necessity to maintain the work conducted under Work Area 1, in particular the capacity building work and requested the parent bodies to consider options for funding the continuation of this work.*

Work Area 2: Forest Resources Assessment

31. Mr. Prins explained the strength of the programme in forest resources assessment, and that it would be impossible to maintain the activities under Work Area 2 with a reduction of resources. Mr. Killmann explained that it becomes increasingly important to monitor forest resources in the context of climate change and that FAO will now embark on a new remote sensing survey and attempts to attract extra budgetary resources for its forest resources work. New demands on the biomass and carbon side in the context of climate change place new demands on the forest sector community: it is requested that FRA produce more substantive information on carbon storage in forests. Ms. Ferreira, Portugal, also emphasized the importance of FRA, along with the importance of market information which also presents a significant value-addition for countries.
32. Mr. Sletnes expressed his hope that in future the cooperation on the next joint MCPFE/UNECE/FAO State of Europe's Forests report be continued, based on the comparative advantage of the UNECE/FAO Secretariat and the developed network of national correspondents, Teams of Specialists and other experts. As this competence is already established, MCPFE is not planning to take on this work, but rely on UNECE/FAO's expertise. Work on issue on forest types has also been brought to attention to of the MCPFE Expert-Level Meeting (ELM), but no decision has been taken. Mr. Sletnes suggested that UNECE/FAO consider engaging in this work with its network, to help find a good solution to implement the decision on forest types. He suggested that work on forest types could be included in the future work programme.

33. Mr. Prins supported this idea, stressing that UNECE/FAO is expected to play a leading role in the next State of Europe's forests report, to provide regional input to FRA 2010; and to work on forest types, where work remains to be done to align countries' reporting capacities with the proposed classification.
- 34. The Bureaux agreed that the present activities under Work Area 2 should be maintained at its present strength and that work on forest types, and the preparation for the next State of Europe's Forests report should be part of the integrated programme during the next 5 years.***

Work Area 3: Outlook Studies

35. Mr. Prins explained that the most acute issue with regard to resources prevails in Work Area 3 on Forest sector outlook studies, which have been a core of the programme since 1951. Work conducted in cooperation with FAO has enabled UNECE/FAO to respond rapidly to information demands with regard to wood mobilization and bioenergy. While there have been very positive reactions to the studies conducted on wood availability and demand, there is no full-time post in the Section to lead this work at present. The input from countries has made the outlook studies special and it has been a global priority of the FAO Forestry Department that every region should have its own outlook study. As no other organization is embarking on similar work, this should be maintained and developed, also to be able to respond to the next emerging issue and to bring together the information collected and analysed under work areas 1, 2 and 5. The European Forest Institute (EFI) has expressed an interest in cooperating in this work; and possibilities are being explored to jointly request extra budgetary funding.
36. Mr. Killmann explained that after 8-10 years, outlook studies are normally being revisited, a cycle which is started now. The Russian forest service approached FAO with the request to have a specific outlook study on Russia and indicated possibility to financially contribute. The next full European outlook study might be in the next biennium, 2010/11.
37. Mr. Jan Ilavsky stressed the importance of maintaining this work and securing a full-time professional post, whilst involving the research community. He suggested using EU funding under the 7th Research Framework Programme. He also suggested the possibility of merging certain work areas.
38. Mr. Sletnes, MCPFE Liaison Unit Oslo referred to "Forest, wood and energy" as one of the main issues of Warsaw Ministerial Conference, for which follow-up activities on wood mobilization were specifically mentioned by the Ministers as follow-up to the Conference. Providing information on improving the mobilization of wood resources, and improving systems for data collection for wood energy falls within the competence and area of comparative advantage of UNECE/FAO.
- 39. The Bureaux agreed to support the FAO and UNECE in its search for resource for the funding of outlook studies in the context of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme. It was decided to seek funding opportunity for the outlook study work in the realm of work on climate change and bioenergy.***

Work Area 4: Social and Cultural Aspects

40. Mr. Killmann explained that the Team of Specialists (ToS) on Gender & Forestry completed its mandate with the issuance of the report on Gender & Forestry, developed with strong support from the Swedish government. The ToS on Best Guidelines for Forest Contracting produced a draft of guidelines on “Good Practices in Contract Labour in Forestry”, which have been sent for peer review and it can be expected that these are finalized by the summer. The mandate of the Team will be completed once these guidelines are finalized and it could then be discontinued.
41. Mr. Salvignol presented proposals, included in the response to the Strategic Review questionnaire on behalf of the Joint Expert Network. The Expert Network plans to continue networking between forestry training centres; and to organize a 2nd International Forestry Training Centres Conference in Lys, Switzerland, at the end of 2008. There is hope for continued funding by the European Commission to finance these activities. To assist in building reference quality in training, the Expert Network developed a guide and risk assessment tools for trainers; to be disseminate in different training tools in Europe.
42. Mr. Prins explained the importance of these tasks and that the network is functioning in a flexible manner with minimum secretariat support. It has been successful in attracting funding from the EU and is active already in the field of norms, standards and guidelines. To ensure continued reflection of the network’s activities in the programme, it may be useful to reflect the activity of “certification of training centres” in the programme. Jan Ilavsky also supported the idea of recognizing the Expert Network’s work more explicitly within the framework of the TC/EFC work programmes. Mr. Blombäck, Sweden, explained that the network could also be utilized to advance the work on technical aspects of SFM. However, it needs to be recognized that the secretariat needs to allocate a minimum amount of resources to ensure continued support to the Network.
43. *The Bureaux agreed that the Teams of Specialists on Gender and Forestry and Best Practices in Forest Contracting be discontinued, the latter upon completion of its mandate, foreseen by the Team Leader end-2008. The Joint Expert Network can be entrusted with the dissemination of the Guidelines on “Good Practices in Contract Labour in Forestry.” Ongoing activities of the Joint Expert Network should continue and “Forestry training and certification” be included under Work Area 4 of the new integrated programme.*

II.5 Additional issues for consideration in the Strategic Plan 2008-13

II.5.1 SFM in Eastern Europe and CIS

44. Mr. Prins explained that the permanent presence of a staff in Geneva would be required to maintain and expand the programme’s capacity building activities. The programme is approaching funding agencies such as SIDA, to be able to maintain these activities.
45. Mr. Ilavsky mentioned that the UNECE/FAO Strategy on Eastern Europe and Central Asia is much broader than the activities of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Promoting SFM in Eastern Europe: The majority of the team members are from the CIS; and these are not the countries which participate in the meetings of the EFC. He posed the question of how poor European countries could be involved more actively in the

activities of Team, e.g. Moldova, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine, and how activities could be carried out with the funding of partner organizations. ***The Bureaux decided to place its authority behind requests to funding agencies for supporting the development of the capacity building work in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.***

II.5.2 Forest Fires

46. Mr. Prins explained that the work on forest fires is mainly led by Mr. Johann Goldhammer who periodically develops, under the aegis of UNECE/FAO, the International Forest Fire News and manages the World Wildlife fires expert community. The responses to the Strategic Review enquiry, however, showed that a number of Mediterranean countries are not part of the Team of Specialists on Fires and not linked with the relevant activities. ***The Bureaux endorsed the continuation of the work on forest fires under the programme along with the idea that the secretariat establish contact between the Forest Fire team and Mediterranean countries.***

II.5.3 Forests and Water

47. Mr. Prins explained that forests and water was a key topic of one of the Warsaw Conference resolutions. The lead actors in this field are the UNECE Water Convention secretariat and the FAO Working Party on Mountain Watershed Management, a subsidiary body established under the European Forestry Commission who will work together to organize a plenary session on “Forests and Water” during the European Forest Week. The secretariat has in the past contributed to the drafting of Recommendations on the Payment of Ecosystem Services in Watershed Management, under the UNECE Water Convention, but has no more developed expertise in this area. It is proposed to brief forest sector policy makers of relevant developments. Ms. Cram-Martos proposed that the secretariat have the coordinating role for forests and water between ECE and FAO.
48. ***The Bureaux endorsed the idea of the integrated programme developing its role of briefing of forest sector policy makers of relevant developments on forests and water, while the lead responsibility for this work will rest with the UNECE Water Convention secretariat and the FAO Working Party on Mountain Watersheds.***

II.5.4 Forests, Energy and Climate Change

49. Mr. Prins explained that the programme activities in this field have recently been developed, examples being the joint wood energy enquiry, the study on wood availability and demand, the UNECE/FAO policy forum on bioenergy. It is now proposed to organize a workshop on harvested wood products in the context of climate change, and to present results at the European Forest Week. In this area, activities are moving very fast. At the same time, the role of the work programme in field needs to be clarified. ***The Bureaux decided that the secretariat should draw up more specific proposals of developing contribution to the forests, energy and climate change debate over the period to 2013.***
50. Mr. Sletnes requested the UNECE/FAO secretariat to keep the MCPFE Liaison Unit Oslo informed as this work is being developed, in view of the development of their own work programme in this area.

II.6 Communication

51. Mr. Prins explained that the UNECE/FAO secretariat has developed a communication plan, but that through the Strategic Review questionnaires, better communicating programme outputs was seen as important, as was communication with and outreach to the wider public. The activities of the forest communicator's network actively contributed to improving the programme communication.
52. *The Bureaux agreed that the integrated programme should continue its efforts to communicate its outputs and to engage with the forest sector as well as other expert communities; seeking the assistance of the UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators Network, when needed.*

III. Structure

53. Mr. Prins asked the Bureaux for guidance on the present programme structure and whether it strikes the appropriate balance between control and flexibility. Through the Strategic Review, one country had suggested to have more regular joint meetings with the MCPFE GCC. Mr. Sletnes replied that he will bring this to the attention of the ELM.

IV. Partnerships

54. Mr. Prins explained that the programme works in close partnerships with many entities, as highlighted in the background note. The partnership with MCPFE has continuously been strengthened and UNECE/FAO and MCPFE have engaged in discussions in view of aligning, to the maximum extent, their work programmes. In view of the shortage of time, the secretariat requested the Bureaux to send eventual possible comments on items III., IV. and V, referred to in the background paper, to the secretariat.

V. Proposals

55. *On the basis of proposals by the secretariat and discussion on the above items, the Bureaux took the following decisions:*

- 1) To maintain and further strengthen the main pillars of the programme: markets/statistics, resources, policies, and rebuild the outlook study pillar of the programme.
- 2) To maintain the broad structure and objectives of the present programme unchanged. However, ensure that the work on climate change, bioenergy and nfps is explicitly reflected at the level of a programme element.
- 3) A task force should be set up to examine the feasibility and desirability of UNECE/FAO work on technical measures to implement SFM, and be asked to report back to the Special Session, composed of UNECE, FAO, FAO/SEUR, Sweden, Joint UNECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network on Implementing SFM and CEPF. It should also consider the proposals as regards certification of training centres and guidelines for occupational safety and health for forest contractors.

- 4) To develop the work on bioenergy and climate change, resources permitting, including the possible set-up of an additional Team, possibly at a later stage. A proposal will be developed by the UNECE/FAO secretariat.
- 5) To request the parent bodies to help find extra-budgetary resources for a full-time, professional staff member in Geneva, to lead the outlook study work in the context of the impact of climate change and bioenergy.
- 6) The secretariat should promote better communication with the fire team and promote the policy dimension of the work as well as the integration of Southern European countries.
- 7) To urge countries and other institutions to loan staff for a 2-3 year period to develop the programme of capacity building, which should continue to be based on the UNECE/FAO Strategy on Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the work of the Team of Specialists. This person should work to get forest sector issues proper recognition in national development plans. In this context, the secretariat shall strengthen cooperation with relevant existing institutions and initiatives, such as the nfp facility.
- 8) The following Team of Specialists should be maintained, with broadly unchanged mandates:
 - a. ToS on Forest Products Markets and Marketing,
 - b. ToS on Monitoring Forest Resources for SFM in the UNECE Region,
 - c. ToS on the Contribution of Forests to SFM in Eastern Europe
 - d. ToS on Forest Fires
 - e. Forest Communicators Network.
 - f. Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Expert Network to Implement SFM.

The ToS on Gender and Forestry had already finished its mandate and should remain discontinued. The ToS on Best Practices in Forest Contracting should be discontinued unless the recommendations and guidelines developed will form part of the Strategic Plan 2008-13, as discussed above. The creation of an additional Team of Specialists to guide the work related to climate change, bioenergy, and wood mobilization, will be considered in the note prepared by the secretariat (see 4 above).

- 9) The FAO Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds should be asked to develop a programme jointly with MCPFE and the UNECE Water Convention on water and forests in Europe, encompassing the organization of joint events and policy forums/debates and capacity building.
- 10) The programme should further develop communication of own outputs and of forest sector issues in general, through the FCN and efforts to improve the newsletter.
- 11) The marketing capacity work should continue following the departure of the UK consultant through finding a replacement to work within the Section.
- 12) The Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics will revisit its role at its 30th session, 1-3 April 2008.

Agenda item 4: Other items pertaining to the programme of work

56. The secretariat presented a concept note on the organization of a workshop on Harvested Wood Products in the context of climate change policy, organized by the Swiss Confederation, Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the UNECE/FAO Timber Section, and Dr. Kim Pingoud from the VTT.
57. *The Bureaux welcomed and endorsed the organization of the workshop, while noting that it should be more explicitly stated that it is an information workshop for the forest sector community.* Several Bureaux members explained that it is a politically sensitive issue and that several member states have divergent views with regard to the accounting for HWP. The main objective of the workshop should be to provide technical advice, to help forest sector experts with adjusting to the ongoing discussion in UNFCCC on this matter. It was also suggested that Susan Braatz, responsible for climate change at FAO, should be associated to the workshop organization. Alain Chaudron noted that there is an EU expert group which deals with these matters (sinks expert group under WPIEI-climate) and that the EU Presidency should also be associated.

Agenda item 5: Dates of next Bureaux meeting

58. *It was decided that the next meeting of joint Bureaux take place on Thursday, 26 June 2008 in Geneva, if possible, joint with the MCPFE GCC.*