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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**TIMBER COMMITTEE**

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2010-11**

Note by the secretariat\*

This note presents the Strategic Framework 2010-11 for subprogramme 7 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, with modifications proposed in the context of the Strategic Review and Plan. The Session is requested to review these modifications. The Timber Committee will be requested to approve a revised UN Strategic Framework 2010-11.

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\* This document was submitted late because of resource constraints.

## **I. Background**

1. The Strategic Framework lays down the basic subprogramme objectives, expected accomplishments, with their indicators of achievement, a strategy to achieve the subprogramme objective and a list of legislative mandates.
2. A draft Strategic Framework 2010-11 for subprogramme 7 has been approved by the Timber Committee at its 65<sup>th</sup> session (ECE/TIM/2007/5 and ECE/TIM/2007/9), with the possibility to introduce modifications, in line with the outcome of the Strategic Review.
3. The Timber Committee is invited to review and endorse the relevant parts of the 2010-11 Strategic Framework for the timber and Forestry subprogramme of UNECE, in light of the Strategic Plan 2008-13 (ECE/TIM/S/2008/3), for submission to the UNECE Executive Committee and United Nations Headquarters. Proposed modifications, on the basis of the responses from governments to the Strategic Review enquiry, are presented in Annex 1.

## **II. Revised Strategic Framework 2010-11**

### **A. Objective of the organization**

4. On the basis of the draft Strategic Plan for the integrated programme of work on timber and forestry for the period 2008-13, it is proposed to modify the objective of the organization to read "To promote sustainable development of the forest sector throughout the UNECE region."
5. This objective is broader, and less detailed than the previous objective, with the understanding that the areas of activities are listed in the expected accomplishments and the means for achieving the objective in the strategy of the programme.
6. The overall objective for the biennium 2008-09, as contained in the UN Strategic Framework (A/61/6/prog.16) for subprogramme 7, and as approved by the Timber Committee previously, is: "To improve sustainable forest management, including the sound and legal use of wood, other forest products and services throughout the ECE region."

### **B. Expected Accomplishments**

7. Expected accomplishments, to achieve this objective, are formulated for each biennium. Compared to previous version of the Strategic Framework 2010-11, the notion of "material and energy" use of wood has been introduced, based on the outcome of the Strategic Review process and to reflect the scope of activities the Committee has recently embarked on. It reflects the fact that fuelwood has gained importance over the last years and its significance on the markets is estimated to further increase. The use of wood for both material and energy purposes has been a major subject of the recent Timber Committee Market Discussions and Policy Forums.

### **C. Strategy**

8. The strategy lays down responsibilities and means for achieving the objective. It explains that the Timber Section, responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme, will mainly work through monitoring, analysis, capacity building and the provision of a forum for policy discussions. It is proposed that the explanation be added that the programme provides a platform for topical policy discussions, as this is so far not explicitly reflected.

9. It is proposed that work to implement sustainable forest management through capacity building activities, in particular in Eastern Europe, Southeast Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Mediterranean region, also be reflected in the strategy, as a means to achieve the objective.

### **D. Legislative mandates**

10. General Assembly resolution 62/98, which endorses the Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, agreed at the 7<sup>th</sup> session of UNFF, has been added to the list of legislative mandates. This resolution encompasses the four global objectives on forests, which the Timber and Forestry subprogramme will contribute to implementing regionally.

## Annex

## Proposed Strategic Framework for the period 2010-2011

## Subprogramme 7

*Timber and Forestry*

(as endorsed by the Timber Committee at its 65<sup>th</sup> session (ECE/TIM/2007/5),  
with proposed changes, to reflect the outcome of the Strategic Review)

**A. Objective of the Organization:** To promote sustainable development of the forest sector throughout the UNECE region.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
<p>(a) Increased understanding, based on better monitoring of sustainable forest management, encompassing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Policies and institutions,</li> <li>(ii) Forest resources</li> <li>(iii) Sound use of wood, <u>for material and energy purposes</u>, in domestic and export markets</li> <li>(iv) The outlook for the sector in a broader, cross-sectoral context</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on qualitative indicators of sustainable forest management <i>Estimated baseline: 65%, Target: 67%</i></li> <li>(ii) Percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management <i>Estimated baseline: 65%, Target: 67%</i></li> <li>(iii) Percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory responses to the ECE/FAO/International Tropical Timber Organization/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire (which monitors the sound use of wood) <i>Estimated baseline: 68%, Target: 70%</i></li> <li>(iv) Percentage of policy makers and other stakeholders regarding selected policy forums and workshops as useful <i>Estimated baseline: 75%, Target: 75% of policy makers and other participants rating selected policy forums and workshops as satisfactory or above</i></li> </ul>
<p>(b) Increased capacity of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, central Asia and South-East Europe to achieve sustainable forest management at the national level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Percentage of participants of capacity building activities regarding them as useful <i>Estimated baseline: 75%</i>  <i>Target: 75% of participants in capacity building activities, rating them as satisfactory or above</i></li> </ul>

## **B. Strategy**

The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Trade and Timber Division, Timber Section. The subprogramme will aim at developing and applying analytical and monitoring tools, both on policy and on developments on the ground, collecting, validating and disseminating information and analysis, as well as stimulating the exchange of experience, best practice and joint efforts to measure progress. The programme provides a platform for topical policy discussions, taking into account the changing policy environment, notably as regards climate change and bioenergy. It promotes sustainable management of forests as well as the sound and legal use of forest products, for raw material and energy, and forest services, based on appropriate policies and institutions. Priorities for 2010-2011 are guided by the outcome of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, placing emphasis through the Warsaw resolutions on “forests, wood and energy” and cross-sector coordination, including “forests and water.” This has been affirmed by the outcome of the 2007-08 Strategic Review, placing a major emphasis on climate change, bioenergy and wood mobilization. The importance of sustainable forest management, sector policies and institutions, forest products markets, and cross sectoral cooperation has been reaffirmed.

While all countries benefit from international cooperation through the subprogramme, the subprogramme will pay special attention to the countries of Eastern Europe, Southeast Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Mediterranean region, to implement sustainable forest management through capacity building activities. As part of the strategy to implement the subprogramme, UNECE will carry out its work in cooperation with FAO and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and provide regional input to the United Nations Forum on Forests. To support forest management, including the use of wood and forest products, that is sustainable from the ecological, economic and social point of view, it is necessary to maintain a good balance between those three aspects, based on a strong consensus about goals and methods among all stakeholders, as well as to ensure that the strategy is well integrated into the policy framework of other sectors (the cross-sectoral approach). Achieving sustainable forest management is primarily a sovereign national responsibility. However, regional international cooperation, through the timber and forestry subprogramme and its partners, will contribute by developing and disseminating concepts and information, sharing experience and defining standard measurement tools (indicators) for sustainable forest management.

## **C. Legislative mandates** **Subprogramme 7 Timber and forestry**

General Assembly resolutions:

54/218 Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly.

62/98 Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests.

ECOSOC resolution:

2006/38 Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission.

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