

Special Session of the UNECE Timber Committee on the Strategic Review and Plan

of the Integrated Programme of Work
on Timber and Forestry
of the UNECE Timber Committee
and FAO the European Forestry Commission

28-30 April 2008

Report by the Chairman of the Timber Committee
Johann Dengg (Germany)



UNECE Executive Committee – 6 May 2008, Geneva



Outline

- The Strategic Review and Planning process
- Outcome of the Special Session: Strategic Plan 2008-13
- Forests, Climate Change, Energy
- European Forest Week
- Gender & Forestry




Strategic Review and Planning Process

Assessment and evaluation of programme's effectiveness and impact:




- Self evaluations by the secretariat: 148 responses (from 39 countries) to user survey of outputs


- 8 self-evaluations by UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists



- Consultations of Countries, Stakeholders (Nov./Dec. 2007) through questionnaire on priorities and needs, programme effectiveness, impact and future direction: 24 replies from governments, 12 from stakeholders



- Proposed Strategic Plan 2008-13, after discussion with joint bureaux, considered and agreed during Special Session, 28-30 April 2008



- Formal adoption during the joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission, 23 October 2008, Rome (European Forest Week)



Outcome of the Special Session: Strategic Plan 2008-13

- **Objective:** *"To strengthen the forest sector and its contribution to sustainable development throughout the UNECE region."*

- **Structure:**

- 5 work areas:
 1. Markets & Statistics
 2. Forest Resources
 3. Forest Sector Outlook
 4. Social and Cultural Issues
 5. Policy and Cross-sectoral issues
- Continued partnership and cooperation with FAO, Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), and other organizations

- **Governance:**

- Revised ToR UNECE Timber Committee, Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party
- Revised Strategic Framework 2010-11
- 8 Teams of Specialists discontinued (2004-08), 8 new teams founded (2008-10, renewable until 2013)



Forests, Climate Change and Energy

- Energy and climate change-related issues of high priority for the forest sector:
 - Bioenergy from forests: important share of renewables mix, mobilization opportunities
 - Carbon sequestration, storage and substitution
 - Adaptation to climate change and its effects e.g. on forest health
 - Positive contribution through afforestation
- Opportunities for strengthened cross-sectoral cooperation: energy, agriculture, rural development, environment
- New teams:
 - Forest sector outlook
 - Forests and climate change (ToR yet to be finalized)



European Forest Week

- Jointly organized by UNECE, FAO, MCPFE, and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (France), **20-24 October 2008, Brussels and Rome**
- **Themes:** Forests, Energy & Climate Change; Forests & Water
- **Objectives:**
 - Increase the visibility of the forest based sector and raise awareness about its important contribution to the protection of the environment and the development of economy and society in Europe;
 - Engage other sectors in a participatory dialogue on forest related issues of cross-sectoral nature;
 - Provide an umbrella and framework for a series of events and for different European actors, including the public and private sector as well as civil society.
- National Events in Member Countries
- Online: www.EuropeanForestWeek.org



Gender & Forestry

- Team of Specialists on Gender and Forestry 2004-2006:
 - Report « Time for Action: Changing the Gender Situation in Forestry »
 - 16 Recommendations
- Continuous monitoring of trends as regards gender & forestry:
 - Nomination of focal point on gender & forestry in member countries
 - Policy Briefing during European Forest Week, October 2008
 - Follow-up seminar to review recommendations, Sweden 2009

