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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

Seventy-third session

Engelberg, 2-6 November 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the joint session

Food and Agriculture Organization

European Forestry Commission

Thirty-eighth session

Engelberg, 2-6 November 2015

Annotated provisional agenda for the Joint Session of the seventy-third Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the thirty-eighth European Forestry Commission (EFC)

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Global and regional context

- (a) United Nations Summit on the post-2015 development agenda (including the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of forests in post-2015 agenda);
- (b) 11th Session of United Nations Forum on Forests (including the Resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015 and the Ministerial Declaration “The forests we want: beyond 2015”);
- (c) XIV World Forestry Congress;
- (d) 7th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe;
- (e) Implementation of outcomes of global and regional policy processes by COFFI and EFC;
- (f) Forest Resources Assessment 2015;
- (g) Regional reporting on forests and Sustainable Forest Management.

3. Forest products and services

- (a) Wood and wood products/Market discussions.

4. Markets and investments in Forest Ecosystem Services

- (a) Forest Ecosystem Services and financing Sustainable Forest Management

5. Forest ecosystem services

- (a) Disaster risk reduction and watershed management;
- (b) Biodiversity maintenance;
- (c) Climate change mitigation, substitution and adaptation, and Forest Landscape Restoration.

**6. Joint ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the
FAO European Forestry Commission matters**

- (a) Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017;
- (b) Planning for the 2016 Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-17;
- (c) Report of the thirty-seventh session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management;
- (d) Rovaniemi Action Plan implementation.

7. ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters

- (a) Matters arising from the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;
- (b) Matters arising from the seventy-second session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry;
- (c) COFFI Programme of Work 2016-2017;
- (d) Strategic Framework 2018-2019;
- (e) COFFI Rules of Procedure;
- (f) Election of officers;
- (g) Date and place of the next session.

8. FAO European Forestry Commission matters

- (a) Follow-up to the decisions of the thirty-seventh session of the European Forestry Commission;
- (b) Gender, youth and education;
- (c) Contributions to FAO Governance;

- (d) Progress in *Silva Mediterranea* and the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds;
- (e) Election of officers;
- (f) Date and place of the next session.

9. Any other business

10. Adoption of the joint session report and closure of the joint session

II. Annotations of the provisional agenda

1. For the timing of agenda items, please refer to the schedule on the last page.

Opening of the joint session

2. The representatives of Switzerland will welcome the delegates on behalf of federal, cantonal and municipal authorities. The session will be opened by high-level representatives from UNECE and FAO. The joint session will be co-chaired by the Chairs of COFFI and EFC.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/1; FO:EFC/15/1

3. The adoption of the agenda is the first item under both bodies' rules of procedure.

2. Global and regional context

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/3; FO:EFC/15/3 and ECE/TIM/2015/INF.2; FO:EFC/15/INF.2

(a) **United Nations Summit on the post-2015 development agenda (including the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of forests in post-2015 agenda)**

4. In September 2015, member States of the United Nations are expected to agree on the post-2015 development agenda. This will include not only a list of universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but also a framework for monitoring and review. Participants of the joint session will be presented with recent developments in the post-2015 agenda of relevance to their work with focus on decisions resulting from the "UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda". Delegates are invited to take note and to make recommendations for the future work of COFFI and EFC.

(b) **11th Session of United Nations Forum on Forests (including the Resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015 and the Ministerial Declaration "The forests we want: beyond 2015")**

5. The UN Forum on Forests Ministerial Declaration and the Resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015 are the two key negotiated outcome documents of the 11th session of the Forum, which took place at UN Headquarters on 4-15 May 2015. In both documents member States stressed the importance of enhancing Sustainable Forests Management and defined the Forum's roadmap until 2030 with main actions. The Committee and the Commission will be briefed on the outcomes of the UNFF11 session. Delegates are invited to take note and to make recommendations for the future work of COFFI and EFC.

(c) **XIV World Forestry Congress**

6. The XIV World Forestry Congress organized by South-Africa and FAO, 7-11 September 2015 in Durban, is a gathering of the global forestry community to review and analyse important emerging issues and discuss ways of addressing them. Under this item

the meeting will be briefed on the outcomes of the Congress, in particular those relevant to the joint work in the region. Delegates are invited to take note and to make recommendations for the future work of COFFI and EFC.

(d) 7th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

7. The Committee and the Commission will be briefed about the outcomes of the 7th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Madrid, 20-21 October 2015), as well as about the State of Europe's Forests Report (SoEF) 2015. It is expected that the following issues will be addressed by the Ministerial Conference: 25 years together promoting Sustainable Forest Management in Europe; green economy and social aspects of sustainable forest management; the protection of forests in a changing environment; and the future direction of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. In addition, delegates will be informed about the result of the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference, held back-to-back with the 7th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, and will be invited to consider the outcomes in the future work of COFFI and EFC, as appropriate.

(e) Implementation of outcomes of global and regional policy processes by COFFI and EFC

8. In addition to forest policy developments, a number of global processes are expected to take milestone decisions in 2015. These decisions will shape the international activities in the next 15 years or more. For instance, the adoption of the SDGs in September and the “United Nations Climate Change Conference”, taking place in Paris at the end of this year will, in particular, have an impact on the forestry agenda.

9. Delegates will be invited to discuss how these global and regional policy developments may impact the forest sector and how the Committee and the Commission will contribute to these processes. The discussion will be preceded by a presentation on the latest global and regional policy developments, setting the context for discussion. Delegates will be invited to consider this information when deciding on the future work of the Committee and the Commission.

(f) Forest Resources Assessment 2015

10. FAO will release the full version of FRA 2015 at the World Forestry Congress, global results as well as a regional subset will be prepared for the SILVA 2015 to take stock of the findings. Delegates are invited to take note and to make recommendations.

(g) Regional reporting on forests and Sustainable Forest Management

11. The work in two main processes related to reporting on forest resources and sustainable forest management in the region was concluded in 2015. The meeting will be briefed about the results and related developments of the Joint Forest Europe/UNECE/FAO reporting on quantitative indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in the pan-European region, which for the first time was carried out in coordination with the global reporting. The collected data were shared among the stakeholders of the process for their use. The Committee and the Commission will be invited to review the results of the 2015 regional reporting and provide recommendations related to the next reporting cycle.

12. The delegates will be briefed about the production and dissemination of the UNECE/FAO study “Forests in the ECE Region - Trends and challenges in achieving the Global Objectives on Forests”, prepared for the 11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Delegates will be informed about the key findings on progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives, and on challenges for forests and the forest sector in

the ECE/COFFI and FAO/EFC region. The Committee and the Commission will be invited to discuss the future work in this area.

3. Forest products and services

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/4; FO:EFC/15/4

(a) Wood and wood products/Market discussions

13. COFFI and EFC will review developments in 2015 and prospects for 2016 on the basis of: the Forest Products Annual Market Review 2014-2015 (Geneva Timber and Forest Study Paper, ECE/TIM/SP/38), countries' written market statements, countries' market forecasts and expert presentations. Delegates will be invited to discuss past developments, as well as prospects for 2016.

14. Member States are invited to submit country market statements based on a suggested outline, which will be included in a request to heads of delegations. The country market statements are in electronic format only and will be posted in advance of the session on the secretariat homepage. Country market forecasts for 2015 and 2016 are prepared on the basis of the replies to the secretariat questionnaire received by 2 October 2015.

15. The Market Discussions will begin with presentations on market developments by sub-regions (Europe, CIS and North America), followed by two presentations on topics relevant for the forest sector in a green economy. A COFFI and EFC market statement, summarizing the discussions and forecasts will be prepared, approved by the Committee and the Commission, and annexed to the meeting report.

4. Markets and investments in Forest Ecosystem Services

(a) Forest Ecosystem Services and financing Sustainable Forest Management

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/5; FO: EFC/15/5

16. Member States are invited to discuss markets for and investments in forest ecosystem services and share national experiences. A panel consisting of member States, NGOs and private sector representatives will discuss the challenges and opportunities for markets and investments including institutional forest ownership and investments on forest land, as well as barriers for financing the payments for ecosystem services. Delegates are invited to formulate recommendations for the related work by the Committee and the Commission.

5. Forest ecosystem services

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/6; FO: EFC/15/6

17. This cluster of issues will be discussed in the form of moderated panels. Panellists will address issues related to disaster risk reduction, forest landscape restoration, watershed management, biodiversity maintenance, and climate change mitigation, substitution and adaptation, as well as forest landscape restoration. Delegates are invited to reflect on the presentation by the panellists and to formulate recommendations.

(a) Disaster risk reduction and watershed management

18. Panellists will discuss the role of forest ecosystem services in disaster risk reduction and watershed management. Topics such as soil erosion, avalanche protection, prevention

and risk assessment, and the watershed management will be discussed. Forests and trees provide a number of ecosystem services that are essential to provision of watershed services, including regulation of water regime, maintenance of water quality, preventing of floods and disasters, safeguarding low lands, and protection of infrastructure.

(b) Biodiversity maintenance

19. Panellists will discuss the role of forest ecosystem services in biodiversity maintenance as stipulated in the CBD Aichi targets. Also maintenance of forest genetic resources, wildlife, as well as the importance of habitats will be discussed under this item.

(c) Climate change mitigation, substitution and adaptation, and Forest Landscape Restoration

20. Panellists will discuss the role of forests in climate change mitigation through functions such as carbon sequestration, substitution of wood in the place of more carbon intensive materials and the enhancement of forest resiliency. Different approaches in forest management at national level, as well as international schemes supporting climate change adaptation strategies will also be discussed.

21. Another topic will be Forest Landscape Restoration: At the 21st session of COFO in September 2012, member states recommended that FAO “*identify its role in achieving the Bonn Challenge and strengthen its capacity in rural land-use planning in an interdisciplinary way through both normative work and project support to countries*”. Member states also recommended that FAO seek support for its field programme to increase assistance to member countries’ capacity development in intersectoral planning, institutional development and the application of integrated approaches.

6. Joint ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and FAO European Forestry matters

(a) Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/7; FO: EFC/2015/7 (Review of activities)

22. Delegates will be informed of activities implemented in 2015 including the UNECE/FAO UNDA project on “Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia”, and will also be presented with a provisional list of activities for 2016. Delegates are invited to reflect on the implementation of past and upcoming activities and to make related recommendations.

23. At the joint 2013 session, the Teams of Specialists (ToS) were established until the end of 2017 (ECE/TIM/2013/2; FO: EFC/2013/2). In line with UNECE rules, the duration of their Terms of Reference (ToR) approved by the UNECE EXCOM was limited to two years (in this case end of 2015). In order to extend the Terms of Reference in line with the Integrated Programme of Work until the end of 2017 the UNECE Secretariat will submit a request to UNECE EXCOM. Delegates will be informed about this procedure.

(b) Planning for the 2016 Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-17

24. Delegates will be informed of the planning for the 2016 Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-17 for the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission, in line with established UN rules and procedures for evaluations, and based on the ECE Biennial Evaluation Workplan 2016-2017. The evaluation, which will be carried out by an external consultant in the second

quarter of 2016, will review the relevance of the UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work in Forestry to member States and identify challenges in the forest sector in the region. The outcome of the strategic review process will be essential for determination of priorities for the work beyond 2017.

(c) **Report of the thirty-seventh session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2015/2

25. The report of the thirty-seventh session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management held on 18 and 20 March 2015 will be presented to the Committee and the Commission, who will consider relevant recommendations.

(d) **Rovaniemi Action Plan implementation**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/INF.3; FO: EFC/15/INF.3

26. Delegates will be informed on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan by the UNECE/FAO Joint section, FAO, and the member countries. The delegates will also be informed about experiences that countries made during the implementation and their expectations from the joint section to provide further support to them to overcome these challenges.

7. ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters

(a) **Matters arising from the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/INF.4; FO: EFC/15/INF.4

27. Delegates will be informed of decisions adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe at its sixty-sixth session, held in April 2015 in Geneva that are relevant to the Integrated Programme of Work. Delegates will be invited to take these decisions and developments into account when planning future activities.

(b) **Matters arising from the seventy-second session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2014/2

28. The Committee will be informed about actions undertaken as a follow-up to the decision taken at its last session.

(c) **COFFI Programme of Work 2016-2017**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/8; FO: EFC/15/8

29. Delegates will be invited to review and adopt the draft programme of work, including the number of meetings and related parliamentary documentation, for the ECE Forestry and timber subprogramme for 2016-2017.

(d) **Strategic Framework 2018-2019**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/9; FO: EFC/15/9

30. Delegates will be invited to review and adopt the draft Strategic Framework for the ECE Forestry and timber subprogramme for 2018-2019, as endorsed by the Bureau.

(e) COFFI Rules of Procedure

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/10; FO: EFC/15/10; ECE/TIM/2015/INF.5; FO: EFC/15/INF.5

31. In line with the 2013 review of the 2005 ECE reform, and in accordance with the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE bodies adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III, appendix III); at its seventy-second session, the Committee considered a document containing its draft rules of procedure (RoP). At that session, various proposals were made by delegates. The Committee will be invited to consider the revised draft.

(f) Election of officers

32. The Committee is expected to elect its Chair and Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the seventy-fourth session. At the seventy-second session, the following individuals were elected to hold office until the end of the seventy-third session: Mr. Christoph Dürr (Switzerland) as Chair, and, as Vice-Chairs: Mr. Heikki Granholm (Finland), Ms. Marta Gaworska (Poland), and Mr. Guy Robertson (United States).

(g) Date and place of the next session

33. Provided that conference services are available, the week of 20-24 October 2016 has been provisionally reserved for the seventy-fourth session of the Committee, to be held in Geneva, if no country offers to host the meeting. A preliminary offer to host the next COFFI session outside of Geneva is under consideration, and the potential host country is expected to announce it if the offer is confirmed. At the COFFI session 2014 in Kazan, the representative of Poland, on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, informed the meeting of Poland's interest in hosting the next joint session of COFFI and EFC, should it take place in 2017.

8. FAO European Forestry Commission matters

(a) Follow-up to the decisions of the thirty-seventh session of the European Forestry Commission

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/11; FO: EFC/15/11

34. Delegates will be informed about how the decisions taken by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session have been implemented. Reviewing progress in implementing previous decisions pays special attention to some key issues, including the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring (to be finally endorsed by COFO23), the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources (as requested by COFO22) and the SFM Toolbox.

(b) Gender, youth and education

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/12; FO: EFC/15/12

Gender policies, youth and forestry education have a tremendous potential to influence positively the forestry sector to meet current and future societal needs. They are the keys to the future of a healthy forest sector. Building also on SOFO2014, a forestry paper will be

prepared to invite the EFC to formulate recommendations to COFO 2016 to further strengthen FAO's work in this area.

(d) Contributions to FAO Governance

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/13; FO: EFC/15/13

35. The Commission will be requested to recommend topics to be considered at the 30th session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe and the twenty-third session of the FAO Committee on Forestry in July 2016. Delegates will be informed about relevant information from the 39th session of the FAO Conference and FAO Council. The Commission will also identify its regional priorities for the FAO Forestry programme.

(d) Progress in *Silva Mediterranea* and the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2015/14; FO: EFC/15/14

36. Delegates will be briefed on the activities conducted under the auspices of *Silva Mediterranea*, including the State of Mediterranean Forests, the Strategic Framework for Mediterranean Forests and the 4th Mediterranean Forest Week and activities of EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds.

(e) Election of officers

37. In accordance with its rules of procedure and established practice, the Commission is expected to elect a Chair and three Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the thirty-eight session. At the thirty-seventh session, the following individuals/representatives were elected to hold office until the end of the thirty-seventh session of EFC: Rob Busink (The Netherlands), Chair; Mr. Andrey Filipchuk (Russian Federation), Vice-Chair; Christine Farcy (Belgium), Vice-Chair; and Kenan Kiliç (Turkey), Vice-Chair.

(f) Date and place of the next session

38. The modalities of next EFC session will be discussed with member countries.

39. Following the provisions of the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017, the next EFC session would be held jointly with the seventy-fifth COFFI session. At the COFFI session 2014 in Kazan, the representative of Poland, on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, informed the meeting of Poland's interest in hosting the next joint session of COFFI and EFC, should it take place in 2017.

9. Any other business

40. (None at the time of writing.)

10. Adoption of the joint session report and closure of the joint session

41. The Committee and the Commission will be invited to adopt its report on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, seventy-third session, and European Forestry Commission, thirty-eight session</i>	
Monday, 2 November 2015	
10:00	Opening ceremony for Silva2015 and European Forest Week (welcome remarks and cultural performance)
10:30	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda
10:40-12:00	Item 2. Global and regional context
	Item 2 (a). United Nations Summit on the post-2015 development agenda (including the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of forests in post-2015 agenda)
	Item 2 (b). 11 th Session of United Nations Forum on Forests (including the Resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015 and the Ministerial Declaration “The forests we want: beyond 2015”)
	Item 2 (c). XIV World Forestry Congress
	Item 2 (d). 7th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
12:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-16:00	Item 2 (e). Implementation of global and regional policy processes by COFFI and EFC
	Item 2 (f). Forest Resources Assessment 2015
	Item 2 (g). Regional reporting on forests and Sustainable Forest Management
16:00-17:00	FAO European Forestry Commission matters: Item 8 (a). Follow-up to the decisions of the thirty-seventh session of the European Forestry Commission Item 8 (b). Gender, youth and education
Tuesday, 3 November 2015	
09:00-12:00	Item 3. Forest products and services
	Item 3 (a). Wood and wood products/Market discussions
12:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-16:00	Item 4. Markets and investments in Forest Ecosystem Services
	Item 4 (a). Forest Ecosystem Services and financing Sustainable Forest

	Management
16:00-17:00	FAO European Forestry Commission matters: Item 8 (c). Contributions to FAO Governance
Wednesday, 4 November 2015	
09:00-12:00	Item 5. Forest ecosystem services
	Item 5 (a). Disaster risk reduction and watershed management
	Item 5 (b). Biodiversity maintenance
12:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-16:00	Item 5 (c). Climate change mitigation, substitution and adaptation, and Forest Landscape Restoration
16:00-17:00	FAO European Forestry Commission matters: Item 8 (d). Progress in <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> and the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds Item 8 (e). Election of officers Item 8 (f). Date and place of the next session
Thursday, 5 November 2015	
9:00-12:00	Item 6. Joint ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and FAO European Forestry matters
	Item 6 (a). Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017
	Item 6 (b). Planning for the 2016 Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-17
	Item 6 (c). Report of the thirty-seventh session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
	Item 6 (d). Rovaniemi Action Plan implementation
12:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-16:00	Item 7. ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters
	Item 7 (a). Matters arising from the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
	Item 7 (b). Matters arising from the seventy-second session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
	Item 7 (c). COFFI Programme of Work 2016-2017
	Item 7 (d). Strategic Framework 2018-2019
	Item 7 (e). COFFI Rules of Procedure

	Item 7 (f). Election of officers
	Item 7 (g). Date and place of the next session
	Item 9. Any other business
16:00-17:00	Item 10. Adoption of the joint session report and closure of the joint session
17:00-17:30	Closing ceremony
Friday, 6 November 2015	
	Excursions offered by the Host Country
