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**ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry  
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**Strategic Framework 2018-2019 for the ECE  
Subprogramme on Forestry and Timber****Note by the Secretariat****Revision****I. Introduction**

1. The Strategic Framework 2018-2019 is the principal policy directive for the ECE subprogramme on Forestry and Timber. The biennial programme plan contains a short narrative highlighting the overall *raison d'être* of the programme, in addition to a logical framework detailing its constituent subprogramme and strategy.

2. The draft Strategic Framework 2018-2019 is based on the Strategic Framework 2016-2017. It was worked out by the ECE Secretariat and submitted to the Bureau of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI). At a joint Bureaux meeting on 1 July 2015 in Madrid, the COFFI Bureau unanimously decided to endorse the draft Strategic Framework 2018-2019.

## II. Strategic Framework 2018-2019

### Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures

<b>Objective of the Organization:</b> To strengthen sustainable management of forests in the ECE region						
<i>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Performance measures</i>				
			<i>2018-2019</i>	<i>2016-2017</i>	<i>2014-2015</i>	
(a) Improved monitoring and assessment of the forest sector, to support sustainable forest management	(a) (i) Percentage of ECE member States able to provide satisfactory data on qualitative indicators of sustainable forest management	Target	70	69	69	
		Estimate		69	69	
		Actual				–
	(ii) Percentage of ECE member States able to provide satisfactory data on quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management	Target	70	69	69	
		Estimate		69	69	
		Actual				–
(b) Increased national capacity of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-East Europe in sustainable forest management	(b) Increased number of capacity-building activities on sustainable forest management	Target	6	6	–	
		Estimate		6	–	
		Actual				–

#### A. Strategy

3. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Forests, Land and Housing Division. The objective of the subprogramme will be achieved through international policy dialogue, analytical and normative work, capacity building and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned.

4. The subprogramme provides a platform for policy dialogue on forest-related issues while taking into account a rapidly changing policy environment. It will contribute to promoting the role of the forest sector in a green economy and in mitigation and adaptation to climate change through the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy. The subprogramme develops and applies analytical and monitoring tools to support evidence-based policymaking on sustainable forest management. In particular, the subprogramme collects, validates and disseminates information and the results of research and analysis; facilitates the exchange of national experience and best practices, and monitors progress on key forest-sector indicators.

5. The subprogramme promotes the sustainable management of forests through the sound and legal use of forest products (including raw material, energy, and forest ecosystem services), based on appropriate policies and institutions. To support forest management, the subprogramme: (a) encourages all relevant stakeholders to participate in and implement the activities of the subprogramme; and (b) takes a cross-sectoral approach, to ensure that the strategy is well integrated into the policy framework of other sectors. Achieving sustainable forest management is primarily a national responsibility, so the subprogramme and its partners support country-level efforts by defining measurement standards and policy tools, by developing and disseminating concepts and facilitating the exchange of information and national experiences, and by providing capacity-building.

6. Priorities for 2018-2019 will be guided primarily by the outcomes of the joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission (to be held in 2017) and the Integrated Programme of Work of the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section for 2018-2021. The subprogramme supports the development of cross-sectoral and cross-institutional policies promoting sustainable forest management, and enhanced forest governance in line with the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Furthermore, the subprogramme contributes to the post-2015 development agenda by promoting the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, in particular by supporting sustainable management of forests, soils and grasslands and by monitoring the status of forests and their effect on climate change mitigation (SDG target 15.2).

7. As part of the implementation strategy of the subprogramme, ECE carries out its work in partnership with FAO, the European Forest Institute, Forest Europe and other relevant regional organizations. It provides regular input to the United Nations Forum on Forests and the FAO Committee on Forestry. The subprogramme will establish synergies in the respective areas of work with other ECE subprogrammes, including 1 Environment, 3 Statistics and 5 Sustainable Energy.

## **B. External factors**

8. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that there is continued: (a) active country and stakeholder participation; (b) partnership with FAO, including the provision of staff and non-staff resources, to implement the integrated ECE/FAO programme in this field; and (c) in-kind and cash support from Member States to the implementation of planned activities.

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