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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

Seventy-sixth session

Vancouver, Canada, 5-9 November 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventy-sixth session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

Session to be held in Vancouver, Canada, starting on 5 November 2018 at 12 p.m.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Building the future with forests.

- (a) Key note presentation;
- (b) Vancouver Invitation on Sustainable Forest Products for a Better Future;
- (c) Panel discussion on the use of wood in construction: Technical and policy developments;
- (d) Panel discussion on the private sector's perspective;
- (e) Panel discussion on the role of forest management.

3. Forest economics and markets.

- (a) Panel discussion on markets "Market Discussions";
- (b) Panel discussion on forests and the circular economy.

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4. The global and regional policy context.

- (a) Thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF13);
- (b) Twenty-fourth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry;
- (c) Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region 2018;
- (d) High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2018.

5. Reporting on and implementation of the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions.

- (a) Report of and recommendations from the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management;
- (b) Review of 2018 activities and activities planned for 2019;
- (c) Report of the Ministerial roundtable on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia, 21-22 June 2018, Astana, Kazakhstan;
- (d) Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA2020): Enhanced and streamlined international reporting;
- (e) State of Europe's Forests.

6. Draft Rules of Procedure for the Committee.

7. Reform of the United Nations planning and budgeting process.

8. Election of officers.

9. Date and place of the next session.

10. Any other business.

11. Adoption of the report and closure of the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

For the timing of agenda items, please refer to the schedule on the last two pages of this document.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2018/1

Delegates will be invited to adopt the provisional agenda of the meeting.

2. Building the future with forests

(a) Key note presentation

An eminent expert on building with wood will deliver a key note speech.

Delegates will be invited to take note of the information provided, ask questions and comment on the topic.

(b) Vancouver Invitation on Sustainable Forest Products for a Better Future

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2018/3

At the initiative of the Government of Canada and with the support of the COFFI Bureau, a document was developed containing the main elements of a message on sustainable forest products the consideration of the meeting. The Vancouver Invitation is a statement of intent, meant to gain supporters after its approval at COFFI, to create a larger community of like-minded stakeholders in support of sustainable forest products as a key element of a green economy and to achieve relevant SDGs.

The Committee will be invited to consider and approve the Vancouver Invitation.

(c) Panel discussion on the use of wood in construction: Technical and policy developments

The panel will feature presentations focusing on functions, types and technologies of wooden buildings. This will cover technological aspects, functions and types, such as large structures, residential buildings, earthquake resistant structures, etc. The panel will also address policy challenges and opportunities for building with wood. This includes social, environmental, and economic issues such as building codes (prescriptive vs. performance based), environmental performance, bio-economy and costs.

Delegates will be invited to take note of the information provided and share information on technical and policy developments of building with wood in their countries.

(d) Panel discussion on the private sector's perspective

The panel will feature presentations focusing on the private sector's perspective on opportunities, risks and challenges for building with wood. Private sector representatives will be asked to present their perspectives to COFFI to stimulate a forward-looking dialogue with Governments.

Delegates will be invited to take note of the information provided, ask questions and comment on the topic.

(e) **Panel discussion on the role of forest management**

The panel will feature presentations focusing on social and environmental benefits related to building a future with forests and will be based on recent publications issued by the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, covering issues such as ecosystem services, forest ownership, wood energy and afforestation of degraded land. The panel will discuss how forests can contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially to SDG 15 “Life on Land”, which aims at protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation, and halting biodiversity loss. Discussions may also touch upon other forest-related SDGs such as: ecosystem services (SDG 6); employment aspects (SDG 8); sustainable cities (SDG 11); sustainable forest products (SDG 12); and possibilities to counter the effects of climate change (SDG 13).

Delegates will be invited to take note of the information provided and share information on how forests and forest products contribute to reaching the SDGs in their countries.

3. Forest economics and markets

(a) **Panel discussion on markets “Market Discussions”**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2018/4

Market discussions this year will focus some of the key findings from the Forest Products Annual Market Review 2017-2018, as reflected in the Draft Forest Products Market Statement (ECE/TIM/2018/4).

Delegates will be invited to take note of the information provided, share information on market developments in their countries and adopt the “Market Statement”.

(b) **Panel discussion on forests and the circular economy**

There is increasing interest in integrating economic concepts with environmental ones to provide enhanced benefits to society and the environment. A number of terms have emerged to describe this integration, including “bio-economy,” “green economy,” and “circular economy.”

While there is considerable overlap between these terms, each focuses on a different aspect of the relationship between economics, society and the environment. As far as SFM and forest products are concerned, the terms also have different meanings and applications.

In regard to this agenda item, “circular economy” is used to emphasize innovative strategies to achieve the re-use of material and elimination of waste and pollution in the forest sector. This panel will therefore feature presentations focusing on the circular economy and what it specifically means for the forest sector, including examples of circular economy strategies and circular businesses.

Delegates will be invited to take note of the information provided and share information on how the forest sector in their countries contributes to a circular economy.

4. The global and regional policy context

(a) Thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF13)

Delegates will be informed about decisions taken at the thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF13), (New York, United States, 7-11 May 2018) that have a bearing on the work of COFFI.

Delegates are invited to take note of the information provided and to make recommendations on the further contributions of the work of the Committee to the United Nations Forum on Forests.

(b) Twenty-fourth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry

Delegates will be informed about decisions taken at the twenty-fourth session of the FAO Committee on Forests (Rome, Italy, 16-20 July 2018) that are relevant to the work of COFFI.

Delegates are invited to take note of the information provided.

(c) Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region 2018

Delegates will be informed about the outcome of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region, which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 1-2 March 2018. In particular, they will be informed about the roundtable on SDG 15 entitled “Sustainable Forest Management and the SDGs”, which featured case studies from Austria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Kazakhstan, Poland as well as IKEA, showcasing how their work contributes to SDG 15 and other SDGs connected to the forest sector, including SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG 12 and SDG 13.

Delegates are invited to take note of the information and make recommendations on the possible contribution of the Committee to the next session of the Regional Forum in 2019.

(d) High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2018

Delegates will be informed about forest-related activities and events which took place during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, United States, 9-18 July 2018). In particular, they will be informed of discussions relevant to the work of COFFI and events reported by the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.

Delegates are invited to take note of the information and make recommendations on the possible contribution of the Committee to the next session of the Forum in 2019.

5. Reporting on and implementation of the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions

(a) Report of and recommendations from the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2018/2

The report of the fortieth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22-23 March 2018, will be presented to the Committee for its consideration.

Delegates will be invited to take note of the information and recommendations and, on this basis, adopt recommendations relevant to the work of the Committee.

(b) Review of 2018 activities, and activities planned for 2019

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2018/5

Delegates will be informed of activities implemented in 2018 and will also be presented with a provisional list of outputs, publications and activities for 2019.

The Committee will be invited to endorse the activities for 2019.

(c) Report of the Ministerial roundtable on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia, 21-22 June 2018, Astana, Kazakhstan

Delegates will be informed of the results of the Ministerial roundtable on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia, 21-22 June 2018, Astana, Kazakhstan.

Delegates are invited to take note of the information provided.

(d) Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA2020): Enhanced and streamlined international reporting

Delegates will be updated on the process for the preparation of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA2020). The FRA2020 process is carried out in a highly cooperative manner, with the participation of major global and regional forest related organizations and processes. This will also include information on strengthening collaboration on the Common Forest Resources Questionnaire through joint FAO, ECE and Forest Europe 2020 data collection on the pan-European indicators, which is carried out in close coordination with the global reporting.

The Committee will be invited to take note, discuss and make recommendations on the FRA process in the region.

(e) State of Europe's Forests

Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava are discussing possible cooperation for the preparation of the State of Europe's Forest report. Delegates will be informed on the plans and progress of work, as well as updated on the arrangements among the partners of the process.

The Committee will be invited to take note, discuss and make recommendations on the organization and implementation of work on the preparation of this publication.

6. Draft Rules of Procedure for the Committee

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2018/6

In line with the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE (E/ECE/1468), the Committee considered a document (ECE/TIM/2014/12) containing its draft rules of procedure at its seventy-second session held in Kazan, Russian Federation in November 2014. At that session, proposals made by delegates were included in a second draft that was subsequently tabled at the seventy-third session of the Committee in Engelberg, Switzerland, in November 2015 (ECE/TIM/2015/10-FO:EFC/15/10). At the seventy-fifth session of the Committee in Warsaw, Poland, in November 2017 the Committee considered again the Draft Rules of Procedure for the Committee (ECE/TIM/2017/10-FO:EFC/2017/10), updated to reflect comments from the session in Engelberg. The Committee could not agree on the updated version nor on the necessity to have Rules of Procedure for the Committee in general, and finally decided to postpone the discussion to the seventy-sixth session of the Committee.

The Committee is invited to consider these Draft Rules of Procedure for further discussion/adoption or whether to continue to use the ECE Rules of Procedure instead, without adopting rules specific to the Committee.

7. Reform of the United Nations planning and budgeting process

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2018/INF.1

The Committee will be informed of recent developments regarding the preparation of the United Nations plan and budget, and implication for the work of the Committee.

8. Election of officers

The Committee is expected to elect its Chair and Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the seventy-seventh session.

At the seventy-fifth session, the following individuals were elected to hold office until the end of the seventy-sixth session: Chair, Ms. Marta Gaworska (Poland); and Vice-Chairs, Mr. Christoph Dürr (Switzerland), Mr. Guy Robertson (United States) and Ms. Maria Sokolenko (Russian Federation).

9. Date and place of the next session

At the joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission held in Warsaw, Poland, in November 2017 (“Las2017”), it was decided that the next session of the Committee would be organized jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission in 2019. The Russian Federation expressed interest in hosting the joint session of the Committee and the Commission in 2019.

Delegates will be informed of the date and place of the 2019 session of the Committee, to be held jointly with the Commission.

10. Any other business

At the time of submission, no matters had been proposed under this item.

11. Adoption of the report and closure of the session

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

III. Tentative timetable

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, seventy-sixth session

Monday, 5 November 2018

12:00 – 14:00		Official opening of the session and welcome remarks
	Item 2(a)	Key note presentation
14:00 – 17:00	Item 1	Adoption of the agenda
	Item 2(b)	Vancouver Invitation on Sustainable Forest Products for a Better Future
	Item 4(a)	Report from the thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF13)
	Item 4(b)	Twenty-fourth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry
	Item 4(c)	Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region 2018
	Item 4(d)	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2018
	Item 5(a)	Report of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
	Item 5(b)	Review of 2018 activities, and activities planned for 2019
	Item 5(c)	Report of the Ministerial roundtable on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia, 21-22 June 2018, Astana, Kazakhstan
	Item 5(d)	Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA2020): Enhanced and streamlined international reporting
	Item 5(e)	State of Europe's Forests
	Item 6	Draft Rules of Procedure for the Committee
	Item 7	Reform of the United Nations planning and budgeting process

Tuesday, 6 November 2018

09:00 – 12:00	Item 3(a)	Panel discussion on markets “Market Discussions”
14:00 – 17:00	Item 3(b)	Panel discussion on forests and the circular economy

Wednesday, 7 November 2018

09:00 – 12:00	Item 2(c)	Panel discussion on the use of wood in construction: Technical and policy developments
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14:00 – 17:00 **Item 2(d)** Panel discussion on the private sector’s perspective

Thursday, 8 November 2018

09:00 – 12:00 **Item 2(e)** Panel discussion on the role of forest management

14:00 – 14:30 **Item 2(b)** Vancouver Invitation on Sustainable Forest Products for a Better Future

14:30 – 17:00 Any pending COFFI matters from Monday

Item 8 Election of officers

Item 9 Date and place of the next session

Item 10 Any other business

Item 11 Adoption of the report and closure of the session

Friday, 9 November 2018

Field trip
