Forest and The Circular Economy

“Geneva vision for the circular economy in the forest sector” and a possible direction of work
Circular Economy in the Forest Sector

• The circular economy – broad concept, many activities possible
• Successful implementation
  • Breaking the silos
    • From sectors to value chains (construction, textiles, plastics, energy)
    • Link with other policy priorities (SDGs, climate action, UN Strategic Forest Plan)
• Building on
  • Existing activities and expertise in the Forestry and Timber Section
  • Existing mandates
Background

- **40th Session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (JWPFSEM)**
  - Stressed “the need for further discussion on the future of the Rovaniemi Action Plan and the need to link the Joint Section’s work more with the SDGs”.

- **The mid term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan**
  - Concluded that there is “a need for a guiding tool for the sector “such as the RAP” after 2020.
  - Suggested that the new tool should:
    - “Include more actions on the promotion, communication and collaboration with other sectors
    - Have a stronger link to the international political context (e.g. SDGs).
    - Be updated to reflect and focus on the latest economic, social and political trends (e.g. employment trends, gender).
    - Define clearer reporting procedures”.
Geneva Vision

- Proposes to agree on a joint vision for the forest sector
- Makes reference to relevant SDGs
- Builds on the previous FTS work on green economy
- Suggests direction of work

The text will be presented for consideration of member States during this session
Possible way forward

- **ANALYTICAL WORK (2020)**
  - How to define the circular economy in the forest sector
  - How to conserve and enhance forest resources stocks and balance forest resources flows through sustainable forest management;
  - How to optimize the components and materials yields by circulating products, at the highest utility at all times in both technical and biological cycles;
  - How to foster the circular system effectiveness by incorporating negative externalities into decision processes (e.g. carbon footprint and the impact on the forest ecosystem services).
Possible way forward

A GUIDING TOOL (2021)

1. Sustainable supply of raw materials to feed existing and new forest-based value chains

2. Resource-efficient processing of forest raw materials

3. Development of eco-design and innovative products and applications

4. Closing material loops by maximizing the recycling of wood-based products

Monitoring, policy dialogue, communication and capacity building
- **Forests and the circular economy**
  (a) Sustainable supply of forest resources for forest-based value chains;
  (b) Resource-efficient processing of forest raw materials
  (c) Eco-design and of new materials for innovative products and applications (e.g. textiles, bioplastics);
  (d) Recycling of wood-based products (linked to sustainable consumption models and recovery of post-consumer waste);
  (e) Monitoring, policy dialogue, communication and capacity building.

- **Forestry and Timber Section work resulting from WIPOW**
  (a) Forest resources monitoring and sustainable forest management;
  (b) Data collection and analysis
  (c) Forest products and markets, wood construction, wood energy;
  (d) UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion;
  (e) Monitoring, policy dialogue, communication and capacity building.

**Link to existing FTS activities**
Possible timeline

- Joint COFFI/EFC Session 2019 – mandate: Nov 2019
- 1st consultation meeting & presentation to the JWPFSEM: Mar 2020
- Presentation to COFFI: Nov 2020
- 2nd consultation meeting & presentation to the JWPFSEM: Mar 2021
- Finalization of the inputs from the JWPFSEM: Jun 2021
- Final draft ready for adoption
- Joint COFFI/EFC Session 2021
- Analysis of inputs and drafting work
Points for consideration

- The delegates of the Joint Session are invited to:
  
  (a) Discuss the concept of the circular economy, associated concepts and how they relate to the forest sector;

  (b) Provide comments to the background document, which will serve as blueprint for a publication on the topic;

  (c) Discuss and approve the ‘Geneva vision for the circular economy in the forest sector’;

  (d) Advise on the future work of the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.
Thank you!

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