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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

JOINT FAO/UNECE WORKING PARTY ON FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
Twenty-sixth session

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva
15 – 17 March 2004, starting at 10.00 hrs on Monday, 15 March

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda
Interorganization co-operation on forest and forest products statistics

This document discusses the role and the work of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG). The Working Party is invited to suggest other items for the agenda for future IWG meetings.

Introduction

1. The Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG) is an informal arrangement that brings together the FAO, International Tropical Timber Organization, Eurostat and the UNECE in collecting forest sector statistics. The European Environment Agency, European Union Directorates General Agriculture, Environment and Enterprise, and the OECD are also members. The IWG coordinates the collection of forest products statistics specifically with the objective of reducing duplication and reporting burden and improving data quality. The primary tool to implement this is the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ), which is used by all the four organizations as the basic format for data collection.

2. During the past year the IWG met in Geneva in February 2003. The Chairman of the Working Party participated in the meeting. The main results of the work in 2003 were:

- JFSQ2003 prepared and issued;
- A preliminary correlation between JFSQ and the Harmonised system (HS2002);
- More exchange of information on meetings involving forest sector statistics, as requested by the Working Party.

3. The report of the meeting in 2003 can be found at <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/mis/iwg>.

4. The IWG also met in late January 2004 in Rome. A report of this meeting will be made available to the Working Party during its session. The agenda included: a review of the JFSQ 2003; plans for JFSQ 2004, including preparation of an improved HS2002 cross-reference; and the questionnaire handling for accession countries.

5. *The Working Party is invited to suggest other items for the agenda for future IWG meetings.*