

**Decisions submitted to silence procedure following formal meeting with remote participation
of the 78th meeting of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, 4-6 November 2020**

Agenda item	Document (LINK)	Decision
1	Annotated provisional agenda ECE/TIM/2020/1	The agenda was adopted without amendments.
2(a)	Draft Strategy for landscape restoration and greening the infrastructure of the Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/TIM/2020/3)	The Committee: (a) Welcomed the efforts made by the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia to restore forest landscapes; (b) Took note of the work undertaken on the Draft Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening the Infrastructure of the Caucasus and Central Asia; and (c) Invited the targeted countries to consider the draft Strategy with regard to its development and adoption, and inform the next joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry (COFFI) and FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) in 2021 on their decision.
2(b)		The Committee took note of the information provided.
3(a)		The Committee took note of the outcome of UNFF15, including the programme of work for 2021 and requested the Secretariat to organize, if possible, an event relevant to the thematic focus of the sixteenth session.
3(b)		The Committee took note of the information provided.
3(c)		The Committee welcomed the information provided and requested the secretariat to contribute to the next session of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region in 2021, for example by organizing a forest-related side event or contributing to a panel discussion.
3(d)		The Committee took note of the information provided and requested the Secretariat to organize, if possible, an event within the next session of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2021 on the contribution of forests and forest products to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and relevant SDGs, in particular SDG12 and SDG13.
4	Draft Forest Products Market Statement (ECE/TIM/2020/4) Market Statement as contained in the Annex of the report (ECE/TIM/2020/2)	The Committee approved the Market Statement as contained in the Annex.

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5	Strategic Review: elements for a new programme of work 2022-2025 (ECE/TIM/2020/7)	<p>General support was expressed for the draft IPoW and its division in the current four work areas including the work on forest sector outlook studies and forest disturbances. The Committee requested:</p> <p>(a) The secretariat to consult with the JWP on the merging of the ToS on Wood Energy and ToS on Forest Products Statistics;</p> <p>(b) To make language in the IPoW on circular economy more flexible and incorporate more broadly sustainability concerns vis-à-vis natural resource management;</p> <p>(c) To include a reference to the role of forests as nature-based solutions in the post-COVID-19 recovery to increase the resilience of society;</p> <p>(d) To include clear outputs linked to activities as part of the IPoW;</p> <p>(e) To include as part of the IPoW activities promoting a wider dissemination of information and results through proper communication and enhanced use of information technology;</p> <p>(f) The secretariat to prepare a background document on how to enhance synergies between the ToSs and present it at the next session of the JWP; and</p> <p>(g) The secretariat to consider an alternative format to continue the work on green jobs should the work of the ToS on Green Jobs be discontinued.</p> <p>The Committee also agreed on the adjustments to the previously approved roadmap (as contained in ECE/TIM/2019/2-FO:EFC/2019/2), which were needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
6(a)	<p>Review of 2020 activities, and activities planned for 2021 (ECE/TIM/2020/5)</p> <p>Supporting UNECE member States in building capacity on urban forestry (ECE/TIM/2020/9)</p>	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>(a) Approved the activities for 2021 as contained in document ECE/TIM/2020/5;</p> <p>(b) Recognized the importance of urban trees and forests for meeting the goals of key international and global agreements, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as contributing to climate change mitigation;</p> <p>(c) Recognized the importance of strengthening resilience in the post COVID-19 recovery through urban trees and forests, and in this regard recommended to consider the inclusion of the topic in the IPoW 2022-2025, with a reference to the relevance of urban trees and forests to the post-COVID-19 recovery and in the context of their climate change mitigation potential; and</p> <p>(d) Recommended to strengthen the “Trees in Cities Challenge” initiative by connecting it to other relevant processes and initiatives at global, regional and local levels and introduce it to relevant audiences.</p>
6(b)	Draft Programme of Work of the Forests and Forest Industry subprogramme for 2021 (ECE/TIM/2020/6)	The Committee adopted the draft programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2021 and recommended it to the ECE Executive Committee for approval.
6(c)	Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/TIM/2020/8)	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>(a) Took note on the information provided and appreciated the results of the project;</p>

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		<p>(b) Invited member States to support countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia and other ECE sub-regions in developing national reporting systems on sustainable forest management, and support the dissemination of the project's outcomes as appropriate; and</p> <p>(c) Requested the secretariat to continue providing support to member States in strengthening their capacity in monitoring, assessment and reporting on sustainable forest management</p>
6(d)	<p>Forest Resources Assessment 2020 Key Findings: Conditions and significance of forests in the Economic Commission for Europe region (ECE/TIM/2020/10)</p>	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>(a) Welcomed the conclusion of the 2020 cycle of reporting on forests and SFM in the ECE region;</p> <p>(b) Appreciated results achieved and the collaborative work by the organizations and processes involved;</p> <p>(c) Stressed the importance of disseminating widely the information collected on the state of forests and sustainable forest management in the region; and</p> <p>(d) Requested the secretariat to continue the work on the dissemination of results, in particular to reach out audiences outside the forest sector.</p>
7		<p>The Committee decided that the secretariat will assess the relevance of the Forest Products Annual Market Review to the needs of member States and challenges in the forest sector.</p>
8		<p>The following individuals were elected to hold office until the end of the seventy-ninth session: Ms. Maria Sokolenko (Russian Federation) as Chair; and Mr. Guy Robertson (United States), Ms. Marta Gaworska (Poland) and Mr. Peter Blombäck (Sweden) as Vice-Chairs.</p>
9		<p>On behalf of the government of Turkey, Mr. Umit Turhan offered to host the joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission in 2021.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the offer and asked Turkey to revert to the Secretariat of the Committee and the Commission in due course on the exact venue and the date to be agreed by both the Bureau of the Committee and the Commission's Executive Committee.</p>
11	<p>Report of the session (ECE/TIM/2020/2)</p>	<p>The Committee adopted the present report in session.</p>