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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION**

Timber Committee

European Forestry Commission

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party
on Forest Economics and Statistics

Thirtieth session
Geneva, 2-3 April 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTIETH SESSION

To be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 2 April 2008*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2008/1 |
| 2. | In-session seminar on potential wood supply | ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2008/2
ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2008/3 |
| 3. | National Wood Balances workshop results | ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2008/4
ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2008/5 |
| 4. | “State of Europe’s Forests 2007”: Lessons Learned | ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2008/6 |
| 5. | Role of the Working Party | ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2008/7 |
| 6. | Guidance of work area 1: Markets and statistics | ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2008/8 |
| 7. | Guidance of work area 2: Forest resource assessment
and indicators of sustainable forest management
in the region | ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2008/9 |

* Delegates are requested to complete the attached registration form and transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, if possible two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41 22 917 0041) or by e-mail to info.timber@unece.org. Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, avenue de la Paix (see attached map) for the issuance of an identification badge at least one hour prior to the beginning of the meeting. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone at 917-2880

8. Guidance of work area 3: Forest sector outlook studies ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2008/10
9. Other business
10. Election of officers
11. Adoption of the report

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. During the previous strategic review of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work in the field of forest and timber (see TIM/2001/2 and TIM/2001/8), it was agreed that the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics should provide guidance for work areas 1, 2 and 3 of the integrated programme, and act as an interface between the technical and the intergovernmental levels. The Working Party should henceforth meet annually.

2. The mandate of the Working Party, as provided for in the Working Party's revised terms of reference in 2006 (ECE/EX/2006/L.17, annex III), and approved by the Timber Committee and the Executive Committee of the UNECE is to:

"(i) keep under review the needs at the international level for statistics and other information relating to the forestry, wood-processing and forest products sector, and develop programmes to meet these needs. Particular attention shall be paid to improving concepts, definitions and methodologies in order to increase the international comparability of statistics;

(ii) develop, upon request from the parent bodies, methodologies for use in economic analysis of the sector as well as techniques for the collection, validation, analysis and dissemination of information and statistics;

(iii) undertake, upon request from the parent bodies, ad hoc projects in the field of economics and statistics relating to forestry and forest products;

(iv) work together with other international bodies, including MCPFE, Eurostat and the Conference of European Statisticians with a view to achieving coordination of activities and avoiding any unnecessary duplication of effort."

3. The thirtieth session will be immediately preceded by a two-day workshop on national wood balances. It is envisioned that there will be substantial overlap between attendees. The Working Party as a permanent intergovernmental body may wish to implement the recommendations of the workshop.

4. The provisional agenda has been drawn up to allow the Working Party to concentrate on the guidance function and discussion of major topics, with formal parts of the agenda kept to a minimum.

5. Documents will be issued in advance to the regular mailing list, and will also be available for downloading from the Timber website (<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/docs/stats-sessions/stats-30/stats-30.htm>).

6. Kindly note that delegates are requested to be prepared to speak on the substantive items (2-8). Views of all delegates will be sought by the Chair.

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

7. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2: In-session seminar on potential wood supply

8. The issue of potential wood supply is assuming increasing importance in the light of rapidly increasing demand for wood energy. An in-session seminar will examine the theory and practice of estimating potential wood supply, a first estimate for Europe and a number of national case studies. It is aimed at people expected to provide information on potential wood supply.

Item 3: National Wood Balances workshop: conclusions and results

9. This workshop, which will take place just prior (Monday and Tuesday) to the Working Party meeting, will focus on methodologies and results of wood balance studies. A presentation summarizing the discussion and results will be made to the Working Party for comment, review and follow-up. Delegates are warmly invited to attend the workshop as well as the Working Party meeting.

Item 4: "State of Europe's Forests 2007": Lessons Learned

10. The report was completed in October 2007 and presented to the Ministerial Conference. ECE/FAO was one of the responsible organisations and the Working Party made a significant input to guiding the process of preparation. The Working Party should review the whole process, evaluate the results and draw conclusions for the future on the basis of the experience gained. It should consider among other things whether the stated objectives were achieved, how the report could be used and promoted and what should be changed for future similar reports.

Item 5: Role of the Working Party

11. The Strategic Review covers all aspects of the UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme, including the activities of the Working Party, whose bureau has been invited to contribute suggestions. The Working Party should review its own role and prepare suggestions which will be passed on to the special session of the Working Party's parent bodies at the end of April which will decide on plans for 2008-2013.

Items 6-8: Guidance of work areas

12. For each of the work areas, the Working Party will be informed of activities, results and plans for the next two years, and will be invited to review and comment on these activities and plans, and to approve the detailed section of the integrated work programme referring to each work area. Results of the meetings of the respective Teams of Specialists will be reviewed.

Item 9: Other business

13. At the time of this document's submission, the secretariat has no matters for discussion under this item. Delegates should feel free to raise issues that are of concern to them prior to the meeting to facilitate discussion.

Item 10: Election of officers

14. The Working Party is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. At its twenty-ninth session, the Working Party elected Ms. S. Phelps (Canada) as Chair and Mr. M. Valgepea (Estonia) and Mr. M. Aarne (Finland) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of the thirtieth session.

Item 11: Adoption of the report

15. The Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

IV. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

The secretariat proposes the following timetable:

Monday, 31 March 2008 and Tuesday, 1 April 2008: Wood Balance workshop

Wednesday, 2 April 2008

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Items 1-2
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3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Items 3-4
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Thursday, 3 April 2008

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Items 5-6
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2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Items 7-11
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**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA****Conference Registration Form**

Date

31 March - 3 April 2008

Please fax this completed form to the Timber Section (+41 22 917-0041) or via e-mail to info.timber@unece.org and **BRING THIS ORIGINAL** with you to Geneva. An additional form is required for spouses.

Will attend (please tick one or both):

☐

Workshop on National Wood Balances (31 March – 1 April)

☐

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (2 – 3 April)

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organisation or Agency

Participant

Mr.

☐

Family Name

First Name

Mrs.

☐

Date Of Birth

(DD/MM/YYYY)

Ms.

☐

Participation Category

Head of Delegation Member

☐

Observer Organisation

☐

Participating From / Until

Delegation Member

☐

NGO (ECOSOC Accred.)

☐

From

Observer Country

☐

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Map of the United Nations Office at Geneva

