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**Sustainable forest management in the region: follow-up to the Lisbon
Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe; follow-up to
CSD/IPF and contribution to IFF**

(Item 3 of the provisional agenda)

Note by the secretariat

This document briefly describes the Committee's contribution to the global IPF/IFF work and the pan-European process on the protection of forests in Europe. The Committee is invited to review and comment on this information, respond to the question raised, and then decide whether changes are necessary to the work programme.

Introduction

1. The core part of the Committee's programme concerns "monitoring and analysis of sustainable forest management in the region", so that, in as much as all actions undertaken by the pan-European process or the IPF/IFF process aim to promote sustainable forest management, everything done under the Committee's auspices contributes to achieving the goals being defined by those processes. However this document will concentrate on those activities actually carried out in co-operation with one or other of the processes, or directly in fulfilment of a goal set by one of them.

New topics agreed on in 1998

2. At its session in 1998, the Committee considered what new item it should address to contribute to the work of the IPF/IFF and the pan-European process (see TIM/1998/4 and ECE/TIM/91, paras. 17-22), and agreed on two major items, "trade and environment issues in the forest and forest products sector" and "strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable raw materials". The follow-up to these discussions is briefly described below.

Trade and environment issues in the forest and forest products sector.

3. This is the subject of the special topic (item 5 of the provisional agenda, see TIM/1999/4). The Committee should discuss under that agenda item, what further action, if any, could be carried out.

Strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable raw materials.

4. This topic has been identified in Lisbon resolution L1 and the report of the IPF (Part IV, para. 131) and seems to be an area where the Committee has a comparative advantage, because of its work in market analysis, outlook studies, and public relations. A workshop was held a few years ago on this topic in Sweden. The secretariat has suggested that a major meeting be held, under the Committee's auspices, which would address the broad directions of promotion strategies, life cycle analysis, target audiences, and case studies. In the secretariat's view such a meeting would be wider in scope than the International Communications Forum being organised by the team of specialists on public relations in 2000 in Canada, which will concentrate on exchange of information and experience between forest sector PR professionals. Naturally the expertise of the PR team should be mobilised for the broader meeting. A meeting like the one proposed would require detailed preparation, probably supplementary resources, and, above all, a host country, and cannot, unfortunately, be absorbed into the secretariat's regular workload, unless other core activities are stopped or delayed. Delegations are invited to consider:

- what should be the scope and objectives of the proposed meeting; and
- whether they can offer to host such a meeting or otherwise contribute to its preparation, for instance by participating in the preparatory work, contributing papers, or resources.

Co-operation with the pan-European process on the protection of forests in Europe

5. Over the past year co-operation with the pan-European process has become even closer than before. The Geneva secretariat has attended several meetings, been informed and consulted on plans and progress, and made a number of substantive contributions, listed below. The head of the Liaison Unit in Vienna attended the meeting of the bureaux of the Committee and the EFC in May 1999, so that information and plans are fully shared between the two. The continuity of the ECE/FAO institutions and the strength of the networks active under its auspices have enabled ECE/FAO to make a distinctive contribution to the process. This contribution is complementary to those of participating countries. This relationship seems to be of mutual benefit to the pan-European process and to ECE/FAO. A document is being prepared by the Geneva secretariat and the Vienna Liaison Unit presenting the co-operation between the two organisations in a comprehensive and clear form.

6. The major contributions of ECE/FAO to the pan-European process may be briefly listed as follows:

- **quantitative data on indicators of sustainable forest management** approved at the Lisbon Conference. Interim data from the Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (TBFRA) were used for this process. The TBFRA itself, and its successors in the future, will be a major source of comparable information on indicators of sustainable forest management. The forest resource assessment process will continue to take into account in planning its work the information needs of regional processes, notably the Pan-European one, but also others, such as the Montreal process.

- An issue which has arisen over the past year has been the adequacy and comparability of information on **protected forest areas**. Initial experience with TBFRA demonstrated that the underlying concepts were not fully clear, and were interpreted differently by national correspondents so that the information available to the pan-European process is not yet fully comparable. ECE/FAO is now working with the pan-European process, and specialists in protected areas to remedy this situation by a follow-up enquiry to TBFRA.

- A team of specialists under the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training contributed to the preparation of Lisbon Resolution L2; its mandate was prolonged to help in the implementation of the resolution. It was felt that the work should now concentrate on a more focused part of the socio-economic field, rather than continuing to address the topic as a whole. Simultaneously work by the Joint Committee team on multiple use forestry resulted in a recommendation that a team be formed on **participation in forest sector decision making**. Mr. Wenner (UK) was appointed leader of the participation team. As participation was also intensively discussed during preparation of the Lisbon Conference, it was agreed, in discussions between Mr. Mühlemann (Switzerland), leader of the socio-economic team, Mr. Wenner, Mr. Mayer, the head of the Vienna Liaison Unit, Mr. Poschen (ILO) and ECE/FAO that the two teams should work together, with Mr. Wenner taking the lead, to prepare a meeting, based on case studies for 2000 or 2001. These proposals will be submitted to the Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee at its meeting just before the Timber Committee session. The Committee will be informed orally of the outcome of these discussions.

- ECE/FAO continues to carry out its mandate under Helsinki resolution H3 on **forestry assistance to countries in transition**, notably by maintaining a data base on this assistance and periodic meetings of the team of specialists on the

topic to review progress and needs. The work is presented fully in TIM/1999/5/Add.3.

- **Women in forestry** was the special topic at the EFC session in Finland in October 1998, and some conceptual work has been done. ECE/FAO expects to contribute to the preparation of the seminar on women in forestry to be organised in Portugal in 2001, under the auspices of the Joint Committee.

7. The co-operation between the IFF, a global process and ECE/FAO, which is essentially regional, is more indirect. The natural partners of IFF are FAO and the other global organisations which take part in the Interagency Task Force on Forests, not regional level organisations like ECE. However, this does not prevent an interaction between the global and regional levels, to mutual benefit.

8. A good example of this type of regional-global interaction is the field of statistics where ECE is a partner with FAO, Eurostat and ITTO in a system which provides global coverage drawing on the strengths of each of the organisations, to provide a globally optimum result, for the minimum cost, to the agencies or to countries. A similar case is the global Forest Resource Assessment, led by FAO, whose importance has been stressed by IFF, among others. The Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment, led by ECE/FAO Geneva, is a major contributor to the global data set which is under preparation, and which will achieve the objectives set out by IFF.

9. Another example of a regional contribution to a global project supported by IFF concerns the survey of national forest programmes, led by FAO for IFF. Until recently, although most countries in Europe do have national forest programmes, these have not been monitored and encouraged in a systematic way by FAO, as is the case for other regions. This gave the unintended, and false, impression that European countries had no national forest programmes. Thanks to a decision by the EFC, and through the network of EFC heads of delegation, with resources provided by FAO Rome and co-ordinated by ECE/FAO Geneva it was possible to generate, from the official statements to the Lisbon Ministerial Conference, sufficient information on the status of national forest programmes to reflect reasonably accurately the true situation in the global document prepared by FAO for IFF.

10. Likewise, the Global Forest Information service, being planned under the auspices of IUFRO, to facilitate access to relevant information will have as one of its basic data suppliers, ECE/FAO, who will in this way facilitate access to the data and information it has collected under its normal mandate.

Conclusion

11. The Committee is invited to review and comment on this information, respond to the question raised, and then decide whether changes are necessary in this area. The changes, if any, should then be incorporated into the work programme to be adopted under item 6 of the provisional agenda.