

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF
UNECE/FAO TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON
FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS**

**Reference to proposed Joint Programme of Work:
Work Area 1 (Data, monitoring and assessment)**

Programme element: XXX

A. OBJECTIVES:

1. Advise and support work on forest products statistics, including data coverage and collection, validation and classifications in the ECE region.
2. Suggest and support proposals for increasing reliability and visibility of forest products statistics.
3. Advise on implementation of activities in Work Area 1 relating to forest products statistics.

B. ACTIVITIES:

1. Review materials such as questionnaires and procedures circulated by Secretariat and Team members prior to meeting
2. Contact national data users for input
3. Raise issues of concern related to forest products statistics
4. Disseminate information on forest products statistics further through network

C. EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS:

1. Recommendations for revisions to Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire and Timber Committee Questionnaire (forecast).
2. Propose improvements for national and international practices in data validation and where necessary with the aim of contributing to a working paper describing best practices.
3. Recommend procedure for estimating wood balance, including the desirable level of detail to include and conversion factors to use.

D. BACKGROUND: For a number of years there has been discussion on the interaction between the Working Party and the forest products statistics work. The Strategic Review suggested (TIM/2012/11, para. 28) creating a team to permit the Working Party to focus more on the coordinating function. There has been a high degree of interest in the forest products statistics activities. The substantive discussion on statistics would move to the Team level where it could be carried out in greater detail and more informally. The Working Party would continue to review activities and proposals from the Team.

ESTABLISHED / APPROVED BY	The UNECE Timber Committee [Committee on Forest and Forest Industry] and FAO European Forestry Commission, Rovaniemi, Finland, 2013.
DURATION	<i>From January 2014 to December 2015. Renewable</i>
METHODS OF WORK	Annual meeting. Further methods to be determined by the team.
REPORTING	Annually, to the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
TEAM LEADERS	To be elected at first Team meeting
RESPONSIBLE SECRETARIAT MEMBER	Alex McCusker