

2 April 2013

Economic Commission for Europe

Timber Committee

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

Food and Agriculture Organization

European Forestry Commission

Thirty-fifth session

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda

GUIDANCE OF WORK AREA 4: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

AGENDA ITEM 4 (d)

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

According to its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to Work Area 4 (WA 4), **Social and Cultural** Issues. This document provides information about activities in this work area since the Working Party's last session and plans for the future, in particular on the activities of the relevant Team of Specialists ('Joint UNECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network to implement Sustainable Forest Management') and drawing the Working Party's attention to any specific issues where guidance is needed.

The programme of work for WA4 comprises the following activities:

- 4.1 Implementing sustainable forest management through promoting occupational safety and health
- 4.2 Implementing sustainable forest management through promoting best practices in forest education and training

I. Activities of the Joint UNECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network on Implementing Sustainable Forest Management

1. The outputs in WA4 depend largely on the activities of the Joint Expert Network (JEN). These activities can be classified in three categories:

- Supporting certification schemes such as ConCert (certification of competences for forest entrepreneurs) and ECC (European Chainsaw users' Certification) to enhance quality of forestry work at a pan European level (with the European Forestry and Environmental Skills Council, EFESC);
- Facilitating exchanges and synergies by organizing conferences, seminars and other activities in order to share knowledge and enhance understanding of forests and forestry work matters (see below);
- Fostering cooperation between training centers through trainers' and trainees' mobility.

2. Since the last Working Party in 2012 and due to a lack of funding, the JEN had little activity. However, the Steering Committee met twice in 2012 and once 2013 to discuss future work and in particular the organization of a Seminar on the impacts of climate change on forestry work with a focus on solutions for practical problems experienced in the field. Taking advantage of the joint session of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission (Metsä2013), this Seminar will be organized during the European Forest Week (9 to 13 December 2013) in Rovaniemi, Finland.

3. At its last meeting, the Steering Committee agreed that the Seminar will consist of a one day meeting (11 December tbc) and a field trip (12 December tbc), which could be organized by the Finnish private sector (harvesting operation for example). The first day would be divided into four sessions (two in the morning and two in the afternoon) chaired by the JEN Chair and Vice-Chairs as follows:

- a) Climate Change and Forest Work;
- b) Climate Change, Pests, Diseases and Forest Protection;
- c) Climate Change and Occupational Health and Safety;
- d) Challenges and Opportunities.

II. Discussion

4. *The Working Party is invited to discuss the format and the content of the proposed seminar on the impact of climate change on forestry work.*
