

19 April 2013

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION**

Timber Committee

European Forestry Commission

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

Thirty-fifth session

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Agenda item 5 of the provisional agenda

Self-Assessment of the Working Party

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document explains the background of the self-assessment, the objectives and the intended procedure planned to carry it out.

I. Background

1. The Working Party mandate has been changed twice in the last few years. Following the 2001 Strategic Review “it was agreed that the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics should provide guidance for work areas 1 [markets and statistics], 2 [forest resources] and 3 [outlook] of the integrated programme, and act as an interface between the technical and the intergovernmental levels” (TIM/EFC/WP.2/2003/1).

2. Following the 2008 Strategic Review “it was agreed that the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics should provide guidance for work areas 1, 2, 3 and elements of monitoring and analysis of policies and institutions of the integrated programme, and act as an interface between the technical and the intergovernmental levels” (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2009/1). The main reason behind this was to leverage the Working Party’s experience to improve work in other areas that relied upon data and analysis.

3. In 2011 “The Committee and the Commission examined a proposal by the TC and EFC Bureaux to extend the mandate of the Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to include the work of teams of specialists and harmonize their reporting lines. The proposal of the Bureaux was accepted with the understanding that the new arrangements would be valid for a trial period of two years, until the 2013 Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work on forestry and timber was completed and the work of the Working Party reviewed again” (paragraph 48, ECE/TIM/2011/20–FO:EFC/2011/20). The reasons for this were that the Teams of Specialists were not all reporting in the same way and it was felt the Teams would benefit from improved visibility and possibilities for cooperation.

4. At the 2012 session the Working Party agreed to undertake a self-evaluation at the next session as part of its contribution to the 2013 Strategic Review. The current mandate of the Working Party is available in the agenda document (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2013/1).

II. Objective and Expected Outcome

5. The purpose of the self-evaluation is to determine whether the Working Party considers it is carrying out its mandate satisfactorily and has the appropriate capacity to do so. The participants should indicate their level of satisfaction with the current arrangements and make recommendations on the scope and methods of work of the Working Party to the parent bodies (ECE Committee on Forest and Forest Industry [formerly Timber Committee] and FAO European Forestry Commission).

III. Proposed Procedure

6. The Secretariat (after consulting with the Chair and Vice-Chairs) suggests that the Working Party split into a number of smaller groups (of a maximum of 10 persons). Each group will be asked to review the following question “How well is the Working Party accomplishing its mandate?” This question will be explored using the technique of an “H-form” which is designed to elicit the maximum number of comments and bring them together in a constructive manner. There will be a short introduction to explain the form and procedure, followed by work in smaller groups and then a return to the plenary session to consolidate the comments and finalize the results.
