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**Food and Agriculture
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Timber Committee

European Forestry Commission

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management****Thirty-fifth session**

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

Adoption of the Agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session¹**

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations (Room VIII), Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 23 April 2013. The session will be preceded by the one day seminar on "Innovation in the Forest Sector", held in cooperation with Innovawood. It will be followed by a short field trip.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report of the seminar on "Innovation in the Forest Sector"
3. Forests and Economic Development in the UNECE Region
4. Guidance of work areas and review of Teams of Specialists (ToS):
 - (a) Markets and Statistics (Work Area 1) including ToS Sustainable Forest Products
 - (b) Forest Resources Assessment (Work Area 2) including ToS Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management
 - (c) Forest Sector Outlook Studies (Work Area 3) including ToS Outlook Studies
 - (d) Social and Cultural (Work Area 4) including Joint Expert Network to Implement Sustainable Forest Management

¹ Documents and more information, including the registration form, at www.unece.org/forests/wpfssem2013

- (e) Policy and Cross-Sectoral (Work Area 5) including ToS on Forest Fires, ToS on Forest Policy in EECCA, and the Forest Communicators Network
- 5. Self-Assessment of the Working Party
- 6. Terms of Reference for existing and proposed Teams of Specialists
- 7. Any other business
- 8. Election of officers
- 9. Adoption of the report

II. Background information

1. The Working Party is a subsidiary body of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission and contributes to the implementation of the integrated programme of work of those two bodies. It meets annually to provide guidance on the implementation of all five areas of the programme of work. The Working Party also facilitates the exchange of information on the work of the Teams of Specialists, identifies priorities for action and relevant emerging issues; and transmits suggested priorities to the Committee and the Commission for consideration.

2. The mandate of the Working Party, as modified on a trial basis (through 2013) by the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission (see ECE/TIM/2011/20 –FO:EFC/2011/20), is to:

(a) Review, on an ongoing basis, the needs at the international level for statistics and other information relating to forestry, wood-processing and forest products, including wood energy, and develop programmes to meet these needs. Particular attention shall be paid to improving quality, concepts, definitions and methodologies to increase the international comparability of statistics and other information;

(b) Develop, upon request from the parent bodies, methodologies for use in economic analysis of the sector, as well as techniques for collecting, validating, analysing and disseminating information and statistics;

(c) Undertake, upon request from the parent bodies, ad hoc projects in economics and statistics relating to forestry, forest products and forest policies and institutions;

3. And, within the framework of the integrated programme:

(a) Contribute and provide technical advice to the Committee and the Commission on issues under consideration by those bodies, including on the preparations of studies such as the Outlook and the Forest Products Annual Market Review:

(i) Receive and discuss the reports from the Teams of Specialists to enhance the understanding of their respective mandates and work; identify possible synergies; and facilitate the exchange of experiences between Teams of Specialists and delegations from member States. When needed, the Working Party would be requested to review and update mandates;

(ii) Increase the visibility and impact of the work of Teams of Specialists among member States and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations.

(b) Reach out to other sectors to discuss related to forest information and management matters of common interest, including best practices in sustainable forestry management and their impact on the overall sustainability of forests, natural resources management, and other issues such as biodiversity and climate change;

- (c) Identify themes and issues for in-depth discussion and review as part of the annual workshop held back-to-back with the Working Party session;
 - (d) Work together with other international bodies, including Forest Europe, Eurostat, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Conference of European Statisticians, with a view to coordinating of activities and avoiding any duplication of effort.
4. The thirty-fifth session will be preceded by a one-day seminar on Innovation in the Forest Sector, held jointly with Innovawood (see related programme).
 5. This provisional agenda has been drawn up to allow the Working Party to fulfil its guidance function and discuss major topics. The Working Party's mandate includes guidance of all work areas and review of the Teams of Specialists. The aim is also to foster exchanges and cooperation amongst Teams of Specialists and offer an opportunity to review respective areas of work in one session and by one body. For more information please see ECE/TIM/2011/20 –FO:EFC/2011/20.
 6. Documents will be available for downloading from the Timber website (<http://www.unece.org/forests/wpfsem2013>). Members of the Working Party will be alerted when documents become available. These documents will be issued in English only. This follows a decision of 32nd session of the Working Party to avoid delays related to official documents procedures and have information in the documents as up-to-date as possible.
 7. Kindly note that delegates are requested to be prepared to speak on the substantive issues. Views of all delegates will be sought by the Chair.

III. Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Adoption of the agenda (Item 1)

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

Report of the Innovawood Joint Seminar (Item 2)

9. The Secretariat will present the results of the seminar held the previous day.

Forests and Economic Development in the UNECE Region (Item 3)

10. There will be a presentation on the paper reviewed at last year's Working Party and presented at the UN Forum on Forests in Istanbul Turkey in April.

Guidance of work areas and review of Teams of Specialists (Item 4)

11. Delegates are requested to review the activities in 2012 and plans for 2013 and indicate their support or where changes are needed, as well as comment on the work and direction of Teams of Specialists during the year. Reports on the activities of Teams of Specialists will be made available before the meeting. Each ToS, as noted in section II, paragraph 5 above, is covered by different work areas.
12. In addition to reviewing the activities and plans for the work area, we will discuss:
 - (a) Markets and Statistics

- Plans for Forest Products Annual Market Review and Timber Committee Market Discussions will be presented;
 - Activities in forest products statistics – data collection, results, dissemination including web site statistics, and international cooperation including HS2017;
 - Specific statistical issues on definition of wood residues, item 3+4 (chips and particles) on forecast questionnaire, estimation procedures and wood balance calculations;
 - Joint Wood Energy Enquiry – evaluation of 2011 results and procedures.
- (b) Forest Resources Assessment
- ECE/FAO contribution to the global, collaborative reporting on forests,
 - organisation and work on regional (pan-European) reporting;
 - reporting by forest types;
 - current work on sustainability assessment;
 - new edition of the report on private forests / forest ownership.
- (c) Outlook Studies - Delegates will be informed on a possible future outlook study and possible next steps for its preparation.
- (d) Social and Cultural - Delegates will be briefed about a new edition of the publication Professions, Skills and Training in Forestry and the Seminar on the Impact of Climate Change on Forestry Work to be held during Metsä2013.
- (e) Policy and Cross-Sectoral
- Delegates will be briefed about recent developments of the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy;
 - Results and Plans of National Forest Policy Dialogues;
 - Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in relation with United Nations Development Account project;
 - Forest Fires;
 - Information on proposed Regional Advisory Group on Paper and Wood Products;
 - Plans for European Forest Week.

Self-Assessment of the Working Party (Item 5)

13. The current mandate of the Joint Working Party 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, after which the work of the Working Party would be reviewed again. The Working Party will be asked to evaluate the functioning of the body according to the current modified mandate. Results of the self-assessment, which will take into account the role of the Working Party in the proposed new Programme of Work, will be submitted to the Special Session of the Timber Committee of the ECE (in Geneva, 17-18 June 2013) for its consideration. Results from the special session will be submitted to the Joint ECE Timber Committee/FAO European Forestry Commission (Metsä2013) session which will take place in December 2013 in Rovaniemi (Finland). The Working Party, at its 34th session, suggested the self-assessment be done during the 35th meeting directly (rather

than prior to the meeting). The Secretariat will propose a procedure for making this self-assessment, likely in working groups followed by a general discussion.

Terms of Reference for existing and proposed Teams of Specialists (Item 6)

14. As part of the normal procedures of the ECE, the mandates and terms of reference of Teams of Specialists must be reviewed every two years by the Working Party which then recommends to the ECE Timber Committee / FAO European Forestry Commission their extension or discontinuation. The current ones are due for review in 2013. Updated terms of reference for the Teams of Specialists that are proposed to be extended will be presented and discussed².

15. In the course of preliminary consultations on the next Programme of Work, the Joint Bureaux and the ECE Timber Committee proposed that establishing new teams of specialists be considered. The areas where assistance from the team of specialists would be needed are:

- Forest Products Statistics;
- Wood Energy;
- Wildlife Management.³

The proposals of mandates for the new teams will be presented by the Secretariat to facilitate discussion on Joint Working Party recommendations in this regard.

16. Following the recommendation of the ECE/FAO joint Bureaux made in 2012 in the framework of the ECE/FAO Strategic Review, draft guidelines for the establishment and functioning of the Teams of Specialists will be presented and discussed.

Other business (Item 7)

17. 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.

Election of officers (Item 8)

18. The Working Party is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. At its thirty-fourth session, the Working Party elected Ms. E. Maki-Simola (Finland) as Chair and Mr. A. Mariano (Italy) and Mr. J. Hangler (Austria) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of the thirty-fifth session. The procedure in recent years has been to request the bureau to serve two consecutive terms.

Adoption of the report (Item 9)

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

² See ECE/TIM/2012/11, paragraph 28.

³ See ECE/TIM/2012/9, paragraph 20.

IV. Tentative timetable

19. The secretariat proposes the following tentative timetable:

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, Thirty-fifth session

Monday, 22 April 2013

10:00 – 18:00 Joint seminar with Innovawood – Innovation in the Forest Sector

Tuesday, 23 April 2013

10:00 – 13:00 Items 1-3 and 4a

15:00 – 18:00 Item 4a (continued) and 4b

Wednesday, 24 April 2013

10:00 – 13:00 Item 5

15:00 – 18:00 Items 4c-4e and 6

Thursday, 25 April 2013

10:00 – 13:00 Item 6 (continued) and 7-9. There will not be an afternoon session.

There will be a field trip to the forest of the Canton of Geneva in the afternoon, starting at 2 p.m.

20. As part of the continuing efforts to reach out to the private sector, the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section is organizing a joint seminar with Innovawood on innovation in the forest sector. The seminar will take place on Monday, April 22 and will be followed by the Working Party session from Tuesday morning, April 23 to Thursday morning, April 25. Innovawood will hold its General Assembly on Tuesday and Wednesday. For further details on the seminar please consult <http://www.unece.org/forests/wood-innovation2013.html>.

21. The Forest Service of the Canton of Geneva has kindly offered to host a short field trip to view the urban forest in the local area after the Working Party. We will depart from the Palais at 2 p.m on Thursday, April 25. and return to the Palais (or airport) by 6 p.m. All are welcome to join.