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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

Outcome of UNFF10**Regional input to the United Nations Forum on
Forests****Note by the Secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The resolution 10/1 “Progress in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, regional and subregional inputs, forests and economic development, and enhanced cooperation” was adopted by the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF10). In section 1 of the resolution on Forest and Economic Development (see document E/2013/42-E/CN.18/2013/18), the Forum invites Member States:

(a) “To recognize the contributions of forest goods and services to national and local economies, as well as to the social, cultural and environmental impacts of forests and to rural and urban communities, and to integrate such values into national accounting systems, as appropriate, and development policies and planning at all levels, in accordance with national legislation and policies, by:

(i) Improving the collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination of information and data;

(ii) Developing methodologies for recognition and valuation of the wide range of forest values derived from forest goods and services, including non-wood forest products;

(b) To establish and develop data collection, analysis and reporting, also considering non-market-based approaches with regard to national forest monitoring systems, in order to better understand the multiple benefits of forests, consistent with national legislation, as appropriate; [...]

(f) To recognize the role that forest ecosystem services play in economic development; [...]

(h) To enhance the role and full participation of all relevant stakeholders in the forest sector, including indigenous peoples and local communities, with regard to sustainable forest management, opportunities for employment and training, rural development, technology innovation and transfer, research and development and diversification of markets, goods and services; [...]

(m) To develop integrated, comprehensive, balanced and coherent policies, including, as appropriate, technical, financial and cooperation strategies, to reduce the risks and impacts of natural disasters and the adverse effects and impacts of climate change, to promote resilience of forest ecosystems, through sustainable forest management and integrated risk management, and to restore damaged forest ecosystems or those lost as a result of such disasters and events”.

2. Most of these aspects are covered by the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of work (see ECE/TIM/2013/13-FO:EFC/2013/13) in order to help Member States to implement this resolution. Regional and subregional inputs are recognised in the same resolution by the Forum, which “welcomes efforts by regional and subregional processes to provide input to the Forum and to strengthen collaboration with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to advance sustainable forest management”.

II. Input from the ECE region to UNFF11

3. The Committee and the Commission may wish to discuss the input to be provided by the ECE region to the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11).

4. In this regard, the successful experience in the framework of UNFF10 should be taken into account, whereby a study based on existing information on the theme of the session, ‘Forests and Economic Development’, was developed for the ECE region, presented and distributed at UNFF10. The report was the basis for subsequent discussions and exchanged at UNFF but also at other meetings on related themes.

5. Likewise, the Committee and the Commission may wish to consider the development of a similar input on the theme of UNFF 11 ‘Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests’. Given that work on the review of the International Arrangement on Forests does not require a regional input beyond what is underlined in document ECE/TIM/2013/Inf.2-FO:EFC/2013/Inf.2, section I, it is suggested that the input from the ECE region focuses on progress towards the achievement of the global goals and SFM, and on challenges for forests and the forest sector in the UNECE region.

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