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## Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

## European Forestry Commission

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

Geneva, 18-20 March 2015

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

**Adoption of the Agenda****Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session<sup>1</sup>**

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations (Room V), Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 18 March 2015.

This annotated agenda provides guidance to delegates to the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management on the structure of the meeting and main topics to be discussed.

The Working Party shall, for each work area, review and comment on the activities undertaken during the past year and the plans for the forthcoming year. Further, the Working Party shall review, on an ongoing basis, the work of the Teams of Specialists and their contribution to the work areas as well as work between the Teams of Specialists to ensure the most effective and efficient implementation of their activities.

Work delivered by the secretariat since the 36<sup>th</sup> session of the JWPFSSEM can be found in the background documents, which will be made available before the meeting. Presentations by the secretariat will not repeat the content of the background documents, but rather highlight main achievements by the secretariat under each work area.

The main issues to be considered during this session of the Working Party are:

- Main findings of the study on UNECE forests: State, Trends and Challenges;
- Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2013 first results and the way ahead;
- “*Building with wood*” – results of the policy assessment;
- United Nations Development Account projects;
- Self-assessment by the JWPFSWM;
- In-session roundtable discussion on the Rovaniemi Action Plan.

<sup>1</sup> Documents and more information, including the registration form, at [www.unece.org/forests/wpfsem2015](http://www.unece.org/forests/wpfsem2015).

## I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report from the seventy-second session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
3. Report of the workshop on “*Threats to the sustainability of the forest sector workforce*”
4. Guidance on work areas
  - (a) Work area 1: Data, monitoring and assessment
    - i. Implementation by the secretariat
    - ii. Reports by the Teams of Specialists (Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, Sustainable Forest Products, Forest Products Statistics, Wood Energy);
    - iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;
    - iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;
  - (b) Work area 2: Policy dialogue and advice
    - i. Implementation by the secretariat
    - ii. Reports by the Teams of Specialists (Forest Policy, Forest Sector Outlook);
    - iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;
    - iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;
  - (c) Work area 3: Communication and outreach
    - i. Implementation by the secretariat
    - ii. Report by the Team of Specialists (Forest Communication - Forest Communicators’ Network);
    - iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;
    - iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;
  - (d) Work area 4: Capacity-building
    - i. Implementation by the secretariat;
    - ii. Report by the Team of Specialists (Green Jobs in the Forest Sector);
    - iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;
    - iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;
5. Self-assessment of the Working Party
6. Roundtable discussion
7. Any other business
8. Date and place of next meeting
9. Election of officers
10. Adoption of the report

## II. Background information

1. The Working Party is a subsidiary body of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission.
2. The Working Party contributes to the implementation of the integrated programme of work of the two bodies. (ECE/TIM/2013/2). It reports to the Committee and the Commission and meets annually to:
  - (a) Provide guidance on the implementation of all areas of the programme of work;
  - (b) Review the work of Teams of Specialists and facilitate the exchange of information on their work;
  - (c) Identify priorities for action and relevant emerging issues; and transmit suggested priorities and specific recommendations to the Committee and the Commission for consideration.
3. The Working Party shall, for each work area, on the basis of a report from the secretariat, review and comment on the activities undertaken during the past year and the plans for the forthcoming year.
4. The Working Party shall review, on an on-going basis, the work of the Teams of Specialists and their contribution to the work areas, as well as work between the Teams of Specialists to ensure the most effective and efficient implementation of their activities. This includes:
  - (a) Receive and discuss the reports from the Teams of Specialists in order to enhance the understanding of their activities and assess their work plans; when needed, the Working Party may review and recommend updated mandates for endorsement by the parent bodies;
  - (b) Identify possible synergies; and facilitate the exchange of experiences between Teams of Specialists and delegations from member States;
  - (c) Increase the visibility and impact of the work of Teams of Specialists among Member States and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations.
5. The Working Party, as part of its work for the Committee and Commission, shall:
  - (a) Propose priorities for activities in the work areas and on relevant emerging issues;
  - (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 on economics and statistics related to forestry, forest products and forest policies and institutions;
  - (d) Contribute and provide technical advice to the Committee and the Commission on issues under consideration by those bodies, including the preparation of studies on the status and future of forests and on the forest industry such as the Outlook studies and the Forest Products Annual Market Reviews;
  - (e) Reach out to other sectors to discuss issues 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;
  - (f) 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 activities and avoiding any duplication of effort.
6. The work of the Working Party will be assessed during this session.

### III. Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

#### Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

7. 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.

#### Item 2: Report from the seventy-second session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

8. The Secretariat will present a summary of the discussions and will highlight implications for the work of the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.

#### Item 3: Report of the workshop on "*Threats to the sustainability of the forest sector workforce*"

9. The Secretariat will present the results of the thematic workshop held on the previous day, for the consideration of the Working Party and possible follow-up.

#### Item 4: Guidance on work areas

10. Delegates are requested to review the activities of 2014 and the first quarter of 2015. They are also expected to review future work plans and indicate their support or where changes are needed. This guidance should cover both work of the secretariat as well as the work of the Team of Specialists.

11. Work delivered by the secretariat since the 36th session of the JWPFSEM can be found in the background documents, which will be made available prior to the meeting. The secretariat presentation "*Implementation by the secretariat*" will not repeat all achievements outlined in the background documents in order to allow for more discussion time.

12. Reports on the activities of the Teams of Specialists will be made available before the meeting. Each Team of Specialists will report under its core work area. The following are the core work areas along with the highlights of the work of the secretariat and the Teams of Specialists:

(a) Work area 1: Data, monitoring and assessment

i. Implementation by the secretariat

Highlights:

- Main findings of the study on UNECE forests: State, Trends and Challenges ;
- Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2013 first results and the way ahead;

ii. Reports by the Teams of Specialists (Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, Sustainable Forest Products, Forest Products Statistics, Wood Energy);

iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;

iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;

(b) Work area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

i. Implementation by the secretariat

## Highlights:

- “*Building with wood*” – results of policy assessment
  - “*More heat – Less wood*” - briefing on the workshop;
  - ii. Reports by the Teams of Specialists (Forest Policy, Forest Sector Outlook);
  - iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;
  - iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;
- (c) Work area 3: Communication and outreach
- i. Implementation by the secretariat
- Highlights:
- International Day of Forests 2015 “*Forests for Food - Food for Forests*”
  - Info graphic video exclusive preview;
  - ii. Report by the Team of Specialists (Forest Communication - Forest Communicators’ Network);
  - iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues; (e.g. Topic for the European Forest Week 2015 and the International Day of forests to be celebrated in 2016);
  - iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;
- (d) Work area 4: Capacity-building
- i. Implementation by the secretariat
- Highlights:
- Status report UNDA project “*Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia*”
  - ii. Report by the Team of Specialists (Green Jobs in the Forest Sector);
  - iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;
  - iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;

## Item 5: Self-assessment of the Working Party

13. The joint seventy-first session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and thirty-seventh session of the European Forestry Commission approved the current mandate of the Joint Working Party (ECE/TIM/2013/2). The main points of the ToR have been recalled under the heading “*II. Background information*”.

14. The JWPFSSEM, during its thirty fifth session stressed the importance of conducting the self-assessment on a regular basis and requested that the secretariat organize the next self-evaluation during the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party in 2015.

15. The Secretariat will propose a procedure for conducting this self-assessment, likely in working groups followed by a general discussion. The objective of the self-assessment will be to discuss how to improve the communication and implementation of the integrated programme of work by the secretariat and the teams of specialists, relevant procedures and how to improve the structure and meetings of the JWPFSSEM.

16. The outcome will be reported in the annex of the meeting report and will be transmitted to the joint COFFI/EFC session. The secretariat, will report on the implementation during the thirty eight session of the JWPFSSEM in 2016.

### **Item 6: Roundtable discussion**

17. During the self-assessment by the 2013 Working Party there was a clear desire to “encourage and facilitate roundtables during Working Party meetings to stimulate more in-depth discussions on key issues”. Countries expressed their appreciation of the roundtable discussion organized during the 36<sup>th</sup> session of the JWPFSSEM focusing on “Improving information on forest ownership in the unece region”. This year’s roundtable discussion will be a topic SELECTED from “the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy”.

18. The Secretariat will present the current status and the next steps for the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy (ECE/TIM/2013/12). Delegates are invited to provide feedback and guidance on possible actions.

19. The secretariat will invite delegates and key people and experts to present key developments in member States. After the introduction of the topic, delegates are invited to provide feedback. The results of the discussion will guide future work of the secretariat.

### **Item 7: Other business**

20. At the time of submission of this document, the Secretariat had no matters for discussion under this item. Delegates should feel free to raise issues that are of concern prior to or when this agenda item is discussed.

### **Item 8: Date and place of next meeting**

21. The secretariat proposes to organize the next meeting on 22 and 23 March 2016 in Geneva. This offers the opportunity to incorporate guidance from the meeting into the annual data collection process, as well as the Forest Products Annual Market Review. The proposed meeting dates would follow the International Day of Forest to be held on 21 March 2016. Delegates are invited to discuss the date, as well as how the Working Party 2016 could be linked to the International Day of Forests and/or whether a workshop should be organized before the meeting.

### **Item 9: Election of officers**

22. The Working Party is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice - Chairs. At its thirty-sixth session, the Working Party elected Mr. J. Hangler (Austria) as Chair and Ms. E. Maki - Simola (Finland) as out-going Vice – Chair and Mr. Mr Jeff Prestemon (United States of America) as incoming Vice – Chair to hold office until the end of the thirty-seventh session. The procedure in recent years has been to request the bureau to serve two consecutive terms.

### **Item 10: Adoption of the report**

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

## IV. Tentative timetable

24. The secretariat proposes the following tentative timetable:

### Tuesday, 17 March 2015

10:00 – 18:00          Workshop “*Threats to the sustainability of the forest sector workforce*”

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

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### Wednesday, 18 March 2015

10:00 – 13:00          Items 1-4

15:00 – 18:00          Item 4 continued

### Thursday, 19 March 2015

10:00 – 13:00          Item 4 continued

15:00 – 18:00          Item 5 Self-Assessment JWPFSSEM

### Friday, 20 March 2015

10:00 – 12:00          Item 6 Roundtable

12:00 – 13:00          Item 7 – 10

13:00                    Closing of 37<sup>th</sup> session of the JWPFSSEM

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### Friday, 20 March 2015

15:00 – 18:00          International Day of Forests “*Forests for Food - Food for Forests*”

## V. List of important abbreviations and acronyms

COFFI	Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
EFC	European Forestry Commission
EXCOM	UNECE Executive Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
JFSQ	Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire
JWPFSEM	Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToS	Team of Specialists
WA	work area

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