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Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture

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Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture

Comité des forêts et de l'industrie forestière

Commission européenne des forêts

Soixante-dix-septième session

Genève, 4-7 novembre 2019

Point 6 de l'ordre du jour provisoire

Adoption du rapport de la session conjointe et clôture de la session

Quarantième session

Genève, 4-7 novembre 2019

Rapport de la soixante-dix-septième session du Comité des forêts et de l'industrie forestière de la CEE et de la Commission européenne des forêts de la FAO

I. Introduction

1. La session conjointe du Comité des forêts et de l'industrie forestière de la Commission économique pour l'Europe (CEE) (soixante-dix-septième session) et de la Commission européenne des forêts de l'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) (quarantième session) – *Forêt 2019* – s'est tenue à Genève, en Suisse, du 4 au 7 novembre 2019. Plus de 180 participants étaient inscrits à cette réunion. La cinquième Semaine européenne des forêts, célébrée parallèlement à la session conjointe, a porté sur les forêts et l'économie circulaire.

2. On trouvera sur la page Web consacrée à cette session des informations complémentaires, les exposés présentés et les documents destinés aux organes délibérants. Il n'est pas rendu compte dans le présent rapport du contenu et des conclusions des exposés qui peuvent toutefois être consultés sur la page Web de la session¹.

II. Participation

3. Les délégations des 28 États membres suivants ont participé à la session conjointe : Allemagne, Arménie, Autriche, Belarus, Belgique, Canada, Estonie, États-Unis d'Amérique, Fédération de Russie, Finlande, France, Géorgie, Irlande, Italie, Kazakhstan, Kirghizistan, Norvège, Ouzbékistan, Pays-Bas, Pologne, Tchéquie, Serbie, Slovaquie, Suède, Suisse, Tadjikistan, Turquie, Ukraine.

4. L'État non membre de la CEE suivant a participé : Nouvelle-Zélande.

5. Des représentants du Forum des Nations Unies sur les forêts (FNUF), du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), du Programme des

¹ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51124>.



Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE), de l'Organisation internationale du Travail (OIT) et de la Banque mondiale ont participé à la session.

6. Des représentants de l'Union européenne (UE) ont également pris part à la session.
7. Des représentants de Silva Mediterranea et de Forest Europe ont pris part à la session.
8. Les organisations non gouvernementales ci-après se sont inscrites à la session : Association for Farmers Rights Defense (AFRD, Association de défense des droits des agriculteurs), Acopian Center for the Environment (Centre pour l'environnement) de l'Université américaine d'Arménie, Centre d'études des politiques européennes, Chambre des ingénieurs forestiers de Turquie, Dovetail Partners, Institut européen des forêts, Organisation européenne des scieries, Fédération européenne des panneaux, Association des forêts d'État européennes (EUSTAFOR), Association finlandaise des forêts, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Europe, Comité international de la Croix-Rouge (CICR), IFZW Impulsstiftung Zwickau (Allemagne), Institute of Forest, International Forestry Student's Association (IFSA), Institut international du développement durable, MyForestArmenia, l'Équipe des solutions fondées sur la nature du Sommet Action Climat de l'ONU, ONG Ecosphere, Organisation internationale pour le droit à l'éducation et la liberté d'enseignement (OIDEL), PA « Independent Ecological Expertise », Planta Panta Tree International (PPTI), Pro Natura/Amis de la Terre Suisse, Programme de reconnaissance des certifications forestières (PEFC), Québec Arbres, Bureau de promotion des produits du bois du Québec, Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Inc, Union of European Foresters (UEF), Union russe des producteurs et exportateurs de bois d'œuvre, Uusi puu - New Wood Program, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, et Zoï Environment Network. Un certain nombre de représentants d'autres organisations, du secteur privé, d'entités locales, des milieux universitaires et des médias ont participé à la session à l'invitation du secrétariat.

III. Ouverture de la session conjointe

9. M^{me} Olga Algayerova, Secrétaire exécutive de la CEE, a ouvert la cinquième Semaine européenne des forêts et *Forêt 2019* au nom de la Commission. Elle a donné un aperçu des manifestations prévues et a souligné l'occasion unique que constituaient les débats pour examiner les principales évolutions des politiques forestières et procéder à des échanges de vues sur l'économie circulaire.
10. M. Vladimir Rakhmanine, Sous-Directeur général de la FAO, a souhaité la bienvenue aux représentants au nom de son organisation, soulignant que celle-ci restait déterminée à appuyer tous les efforts visant à assurer la gestion durable des forêts et des autres ressources naturelles dans la région.
11. M. Guy Robertson (États-Unis d'Amérique), Président du Comité et Coprésident de la session, a ouvert la session et a souhaité la bienvenue aux participants au nom du Comité.
12. M^{me} Christine Farcy (Belgique), Présidente de la Commission et Coprésidente de la session, a souhaité la bienvenue aux participants au nom de la Commission.
13. M. Ben Gunneberg, secrétaire général du PEFC, a souhaité la bienvenue aux participants qu'il a accueillis à l'exposition intitulée « Les forêts et l'économie circulaire – un monde sans plastique » où étaient présentées des innovations récentes faites dans le domaine du bois. Il a fourni des explications sur plusieurs pièces de l'exposition à travers laquelle il a guidé les participants.
14. M^{me} Eveliina Pokela, directrice exécutive de Uusi puu – New Wood, a expliqué son rôle en tant que coorganisatrice de l'exposition et a achevé la visite.

IV. Adoption de l'ordre du jour (Point 1 de l'ordre du jour)

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/1 ; FO:EFC/2019/1.

15. L'ordre du jour provisoire a été présenté et adopté.

V. Forêts et économie circulaire (point 2 de l'ordre du jour)

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/3 ; FO:EFC/2019/3.

16. M. Vasileios Rizos, chargé de recherche et responsable des ressources durables et de l'économie circulaire au Centre d'études des politiques européennes, a prononcé un discours liminaire sur le concept d'économie circulaire et les processus s'y rapportant.

17. M. Carlos Martin Novella, Secrétaire exécutif adjoint du secrétariat des Conventions de Bâle, Rotterdam et Stockholm, a présenté les travaux réalisés au titre de ces instruments sur les déchets et les produits chimiques dans l'économie circulaire forestière.

18. M^{me} Paola Agostini, économiste principale chargée des questions d'environnement à la Banque mondiale, a présenté les travaux de la Banque mondiale sur l'économie circulaire et ses liens avec le secteur forestier.

19. M. Luis Rochartre, Directeur du groupe « Forest Solutions » du Conseil mondial des entreprises pour le développement durable, a présenté les travaux du secteur privé sur l'économie circulaire.

20. M. Ismail Belen, membre de la Chambre des ingénieurs forestiers de Turquie, a parlé des pratiques de récolte à faible impact en Turquie.

21. M^{me} Hanna Kalliomäki, présidente de Uusi puu – New Wood en Finlande, a fait un exposé sur la manière dont l'innovation de produit pouvait changer la vie quotidienne dans l'économie circulaire.

22. Les participants à la table ronde ont examiné les possibilités et les difficultés liées à la mise en œuvre de pratiques relevant de l'économie circulaire dans le secteur forestier, ainsi que les initiatives et les outils au niveau international qui pourraient favoriser la transition vers ce type d'économie.

23. Le secrétariat a présenté les « principes de Genève relatifs à l'économie circulaire dans le secteur forestier », qui étaient énoncés dans le document ECE/TIM/2019/3-FO:EFC/2019/3, et l'orientation possible des travaux dans ce domaine.

24. Les Coprésidents ont créé un groupe de contact dirigé par le représentant du Canada et l'ont chargé d'examiner le projet de « principes de Genève » et d'élaborer un projet de décision s'y rapportant en vue de le soumettre à l'examen du Comité et de la Commission.

VI. Questions communes intéressant le Comité et la Commission (point 3 de l'ordre du jour)

A. Examen des recommandations relatives au point 2, « Forêts et économie circulaire »

25. Le Comité et la Commission ont examiné la pertinence des concepts de l'économie circulaire dans le secteur forestier.

26. Le Comité et la Commission ont en outre invité la CEE et la FAO, par l'intermédiaire de leur Section conjointe de la forêt et du bois, à mener des travaux de recherche et à dresser un état des lieux sur cette question ainsi qu'à proposer des outils

d'orientation et à formuler des recommandations à l'intention des États membres en tenant compte des débats qui auraient lieu pendant la session conjointe.

27. Des participants ont souligné qu'il importait de travailler avec tous les acteurs concernés dans le cadre de ces actions.

B. Questions de politique mondiale et régionale concernant les forêts

28. Le secrétariat a présenté les questions de politique mondiale et régionale concernant les forêts et, dans ce cadre, a fourni des informations sur la mise en œuvre du Plan stratégique des Nations Unies sur les forêts (2017-2030), ainsi que sur le forum politique de haut niveau pour le développement durable, le rapport sur les progrès réalisés en vue des évaluations des ressources forestières mondiales en 2020, l'étude sur les perspectives du secteur forestier et les dialogues sur les politiques forestières nationales en Azerbaïdjan, au Kazakhstan et en Ukraine.

29. La Commission et le Comité ont demandé à la CEE et la FAO de mener les actions ci-après (dans le cadre de leurs mandats existants) :

a) Continuer d'apporter une aide aux pays pour la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable et des éléments du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 (Programme 2030) ayant trait aux forêts, et pour la mise en œuvre du Plan stratégique des Nations Unies sur les forêts (2017-2030) ;

b) Informer les États membres et les autres parties prenantes de l'évolution de la politique mondiale et régionale relative aux forêts afin de contribuer à la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable ainsi qu'à la mise en œuvre et à l'examen du Plan stratégique des Nations Unies sur les forêts (2017-2030) ;

c) Poursuivre leurs activités de suivi et d'étude des perspectives du secteur forestier dans la région.

30. La contribution de la Section conjointe de la forêt et du bois aux travaux sur la politique mondiale et régionale relative aux forêts ont été salués ; le Comité et la Commission ont demandé la poursuite de ces travaux.

C. Programme de travail intégré

1. Examen stratégique du Programme de travail intégré de Varsovie

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/4 ; FO:EFC/2019/4.

31. Le secrétariat a présenté les plans et le calendrier de l'examen stratégique du Programme de travail intégré de Varsovie.

32. Le Comité et la Commission ont approuvé le calendrier figurant à l'annexe I.

2. Rapport du Groupe de travail conjoint sur les statistiques, l'économie et la gestion forestières

Documents : ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/2.

33. M. Matthias Dieter (Allemagne), Président du Groupe de travail conjoint sur les statistiques, l'économie et la gestion forestières, a présenté le rapport de la quarante et unième session de ce groupe, qui s'était tenue du 27 au 29 mars 2019 à Genève.

34. Le Comité et la Commission ont pris note des informations fournies.

3. Gestion des Équipes de spécialistes

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/5 ; FO:EFC/2019/5.

35. Le secrétariat a présenté les modifications proposées, telles que recommandées par le Groupe de travail conjoint, figurant dans le document ECE/TIM/2019/5 ; FO:EFC/2019/5.

36. Le Comité et la Commission :

a) Ont mis en place une nouvelle Équipe de spécialistes des forêts boréales pour la période 2020-2021 et approuvé son mandat tel qu'il figure à l'annexe II.

b) Ont remercié la Suède pour son rôle directeur dans la mise en place de l'Équipe de spécialistes des forêts boréales (y compris l'élaboration de la Déclaration ministérielle de Haparanda) ;

c) Ont loué la Fédération de Russie pour le généreux appui financier qu'elle apportait aux travaux de l'Équipe de spécialistes des forêts boréales ;

d) Ont approuvé l'intégration de l'Équipe de spécialistes sur la politique forestière dans l'Équipe de spécialistes des perspectives du secteur forestier et le nouveau mandat de l'Équipe de spécialistes des perspectives du secteur forestier tel qu'il figurait à l'annexe II. Le mandat des équipes qui n'avaient pas été intégrées dans l'annexe II était resté inchangé, demeurant tel qu'il figurait à l'annexe I du Programme de travail intégré de Varsovie (document ECE/TIM/2017/2-FO:EFC/2017/2) ;

e) Ont prolongé pour la période 2020-2021 le mandat des équipes de spécialistes suivantes :

- i. Équipe de spécialistes CEE/FAO du suivi de la gestion durable des forêts ;
- ii. Équipe de spécialistes CEE/FAO des produits forestiers durables ;
- iii. Équipe de spécialistes CEE/FAO des statistiques des produits forestiers
- iv. Équipe de spécialistes CEE/FAO du bois-énergie ;
- v. Équipe de spécialistes CEE/FAO de la communication (Réseau de spécialistes de la communication dans le secteur forestier) ;
- vi. Équipe de spécialistes CEE/FAO des emplois verts du secteur forestier (Réseau conjoint d'experts OIT/CEE/FAO) ;

f) Ont décidé que l'Équipe de spécialistes des emplois verts, dans le cadre de ses activités, s'efforcera de rendre plus visibles les études de cas se rapportant aux Lignes directrices pour la promotion des emplois verts dans le secteur forestier ;

g) Ont remercié la FAO d'avoir accepté de mettre à disposition le secrétaire du Réseau de spécialistes de la communication dans le secteur forestier.

37. Le secrétariat a rappelé aux participants les efforts déployés par la Section conjointe CEE/FAO de la forêt et du bois pour fournir des services d'appui à toutes les équipes de spécialistes et a exhorté les États membres à suivre l'exemple de la Fédération de Russie en allouant des fonds spécialement consacrés aux travaux des équipes de spécialistes.

4. Examen des activités menées en 2019 et activités et publications prévues pour 2020

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/6 ; FO:EFC/2019/6.

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/7 ; FO:EFC/2019/7.

38. Le secrétariat a informé les participants des activités menées en 2019 et a présenté une liste provisoire des produits et activités prévus pour 2020 ainsi qu'une liste des publications proposées pour 2020 et 2021.

39. Le Comité et la Commission ont approuvé les activités prévues pour 2020 telles qu'elles figuraient à l'annexe III ainsi que les publications proposées pour 2020 et 2021 telles qu'elles figuraient à l'annexe IV.

5. Lignes directrices pour la promotion des emplois verts dans le secteur forestier

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/8 ; FO:EFC/2019/8.

40. Le secrétariat a présenté les travaux sur les « Lignes directrices CEE/FAO/Forest Europe pour la promotion des emplois verts dans le secteur forestier », menés conjointement par la CEE, la FAO et Forest Europe.

41. Le Comité et la Commission :

a) Ont approuvé les Lignes directrices telles qu'elles figuraient dans les documents ECE/TIM/2019/Inf.4 ; FO:EFC/2019/Inf.4 ;

b) Se sont félicités de la coopération entre Forest Europe et la Section conjointe CEE/FAO de la forêt et du bois concernant les Lignes directrices ;

c) Ont invité les États membres à utiliser les Lignes directrices et à les promouvoir au niveau national ;

d) Ont invité le secrétariat à appuyer le transfert de connaissances, le renforcement des capacités et la création de nouvelles possibilités afin de créer des emplois novateurs dans le secteur forestier ;

e) Ont invité l'Équipe de spécialistes des emplois verts à poursuivre l'échange de données d'expérience sur la mise en œuvre des Lignes directrices, à recueillir des exemples concrets de meilleures pratiques dans l'ensemble de la région de la CEE, à les publier sur le Web, y compris au moyen des médias sociaux, et à s'efforcer de les rendre plus visibles afin d'attirer davantage de jeunes vers les emplois verts dans le secteur forestier.

6. Restauration de paysages forestiers

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/Inf.2 ; FO:EFC/2019/Inf.2.

42. Le secrétariat a présenté les activités de la Section se rapportant à la restauration des paysages forestiers et a présenté l'initiative régionale ECCA30, qui avait été lancée pendant le Sommet Action Climat en 2019. ECCA30 était une initiative régionale qui visait à restaurer 30 millions d'hectares de terres dégradées en Europe, dans le Caucase et en Asie centrale d'ici à 2030. La Décennie des Nations Unies pour la restauration des écosystèmes (2021-2030), dont la FAO était l'une des organisations chefs de file, constituerait un cadre pour les travaux qui seront menés dans ce domaine.

43. M^{me} Paola Agostini, économiste principale chargée des questions d'environnement à la Banque mondiale, a présenté les possibilités qui existaient de financer la restauration des paysages forestiers en faisant appel à ProGreen, un fonds d'affectation spéciale multidonateur de la Banque mondiale, et sa participation à l'initiative ECCA30.

D. Résultats du Forum régional pour le développement durable consacré à la région de la CEE et du forum politique de haut niveau pour le développement durable

44. Le secrétariat a présenté les résultats du Forum régional pour le développement durable et du forum politique de haut niveau pour le développement durable.

45. Le Comité et la Commission ont pris note des informations communiquées. Ils ont demandé au secrétariat de les informer des faits nouveaux pertinents concernant ces deux processus et de recenser les moyens de contribuer à ces réunions.

E. Point sur un accord juridiquement contraignant concernant les forêts en Europe

46. Le secrétariat a informé les représentants de l'état d'avancement des débats sur l'éventuelle reprise des négociations relatives à l'accord juridiquement contraignant concernant les forêts en Europe, y compris de la réunion informelle (31 octobre-1^{er} novembre 2019, Genève) pendant laquelle les éléments d'un projet de décision du Comité exécutif et le projet de mandat du groupe de négociation qui pourrait être créé avaient été examinés. Ce projet de document serait examiné plus avant pendant une deuxième réunion informelle prévue pour la fin de janvier 2020. Le secrétariat informerait en temps utile les missions permanentes à Genève de la date exacte de la réunion.

47. Le Comité et la Commission ont pris note des informations fournies.

F. Débats sur les marchés

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/9 ; FO:EFC/2019/9.

48. Les débats sur les marchés ont été ouverts par le Coprésident de la réunion, qui a présenté la modératrice de la séance, M^{me} Silvia Melegari de l'Organisation européenne des scieries. Le secrétariat a présenté le sujet en expliquant que des informations générales avaient été distribuées aux participants, dont la Revue annuelle du marché des produits forestiers 2018-2019. La modératrice a donné un aperçu général de la séance et a présenté les orateurs.

49. M. Russ Vaagen, fondateur et directeur général de Vaagen Timbers, a fait un exposé intitulé « Transformer les forêts incendiées en villes renouvelables ».

50. M. Igor Novoselov, fondateur et directeur de WhatWood Research & Analytics, a présenté un exposé sur l'évolution du secteur forestier dans la Communauté d'États indépendants (CEI).

51. M. Richard Steindl, chef de produit pour le bois lamellé-croisé au sein de la société Stora Enso Timber Deutschland GmbH, a fait un exposé sur le thème « L'exemple du bois lamellé-croisé dans la construction en bois massif en Europe : histoire et perspectives ».

52. M. Edouard Akim, Chef du Département des technologies de la cellulose et des matériaux composites de l'École supérieure des technologies et de l'énergie de l'Université d'État de technologie et de design de Saint-Petersbourg, a présenté un exposé sur les faits nouveaux survenus dans le secteur de la pâte à papier et du papier en Fédération de Russie.

53. M. Aleksandr Pekarets, Directeur technique de Forest Technology Company LLC, et Vice-Président de RAO Bumprom, a fait un exposé sur les technologies innovantes pour la production de briquettes de charbon de bois en Fédération de Russie.

54. Les principales conclusions de ces exposés et des débats ont été reprises dans la déclaration sur les marchés, qui a été examinée par un comité de rédaction.

55. Le Comité et la Commission ont approuvé la déclaration sur les marchés qui est jointe au présent rapport (annexe V).

VII. Questions relevant du Comité des forêts et de l'industrie forestière (point 4 de l'ordre du jour)

56. M. Guy Robertson, Président du Comité des forêts et de l'industrie forestière, a ouvert la session par l'examen de questions relevant du Comité.

A. Questions découlant de la soixante-huitième session de la Commission économique pour l'Europe

Documents : E/ECE/1488.

57. Mme Paola Deda, secrétaire du Comité, a informé les représentants des décisions se rapportant au Programme de travail intégré de Varsovie qui avaient été adoptées par la CEE à sa soixante-huitième session, tenue à Genève du 8 au 10 avril 2019, et les a invités à tenir compte de ces décisions et des faits nouveaux dans les activités à prévoir, en particulier le changement de nom du « sous-programme sur le bois et la foresterie » en « sous-programme sur les forêts et l'industrie forestière ». Le secrétariat a précisé que ce changement de nom n'impliquait pas un changement d'activités.

58. Le Comité et la Commission ont pris note des informations fournies.

B. Règlement intérieur du Comité des forêts et de l'industrie forestière

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/10 ; FO:EFC/2019/10.

59. La secrétaire a présenté les informations contenues dans le document ECE/TIM/2019/10-FO:EFC/2019/10 et a invité les représentants à examiner la proposition de modification du paragraphe 9 du Règlement intérieur du Comité des forêts et de l'industrie forestière.

60. Le Comité est convenu du texte suivant pour le paragraphe 9 : « Des représentants d'organisations non gouvernementales, du secteur privé et du monde universitaire, ainsi que d'autres entités dont les travaux intéressent le secteur forestier et le Comité des forêts et de l'industrie forestière, n'ayant pas le statut consultatif auprès du Conseil économique et social², et qui ont informé le secrétariat au moins vingt jours avant la réunion de leur souhait d'être représentés, peuvent être autorisés à participer aux sessions du Comité en qualité d'observateurs sans droit de vote, sous réserve de l'approbation du secrétariat. »

61. Le Règlement intérieur révisé du Comité des forêts et de l'industrie forestière figure à l'annexe VI.

C. Fonds d'affectation spéciale de la CEE pour les forêts

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/11 ; FO:EFC/2019/11.

62. La secrétaire a informé les représentants de la situation actuelle du Fonds d'affectation spéciale de la CEE pour l'étude des tendances et des perspectives à long terme du bois d'œuvre en Europe.

63. Le Comité a décidé de maintenir le Fonds d'affectation spéciale pour les forêts afin de soutenir les activités du Comité et du sous-programme correspondant de la CEE au moyen d'un nouveau projet Umoja portant le code d'identification du Fonds 32CEE, étant entendu que les activités seront poursuivies à l'avenir.

D. Programme de travail du sous-programme sur le bois et la foresterie

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/12 ; FO:EFC/2019/12.

64. La secrétaire a présenté le projet de programme de travail du sous-programme sur le bois et la foresterie (rebaptisé « sous-programme sur les forêts et l'industrie forestière ») pour 2020.

² Le document E/ECE/778/Rev.5, auquel il est fait référence au paragraphe 8, précise quelles sont les organisations non gouvernementales reconnues par le Conseil économique et social.

65. Le Comité a adopté le programme de travail.

E. Questions relatives à l'accord juridiquement contraignant concernant les forêts en Europe

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/13 ; FO:EFC/2019/13.

66. La secrétaire a noté que cette question avait déjà été examinée au titre du point 3 de l'ordre du jour et qu'aucune information supplémentaire n'avait été fournie.

F. Élection du Bureau

67. Les personnes ci-après ont été élues et resteront en fonctions jusqu'à la fin de la soixante-dix-huitième session : Guy Robertson (États-Unis) en qualité de Président ; M^{me} Maria Sokolenko (Fédération de Russie), M^{me} Marta Gaworska (Pologne) et M. Vardan Melikyan (Arménie) en qualité de Vice-Présidents.

68. Les participants à la réunion ont remercié chaleureusement le Vice-Président sortant, M. Christoph Dürri (Suisse), pour la très grande qualité des services qu'il avait assurés au fil des années, y compris sa précieuse contribution aux travaux du Comité des forêts et de l'industrie forestière et de son Bureau, l'appui qu'il avait apporté à la coopération avec la Commission européenne des forêts (CEF) et son aide amicale.

G. Date et lieu de la prochaine session

69. Le Président a informé les représentants que, sous réserve de la disponibilité des services de conférence, la semaine du 2 au 6 novembre 2020 avait été retenue provisoirement pour la soixante-dix-huitième session du Comité, qui se tiendrait à Genève.

H. Questions diverses

70. Aucune autre question n'a été abordée.

VIII. Questions relevant de la Commission européenne des forêts de la FAO (point 5 de l'ordre du jour)

71. M^{me} Christine Farcy, Présidente de la Commission européenne des forêts (CEF), a ouvert la séance consacrée aux questions relevant de la Commission.

A. Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées à la trente-neuvième session de la Commission européenne des forêts

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/14/Rev.1 ; FO:EFC/2019/14/Rev.1.

72. M. Ekrem Yazici, Secrétaire de la Commission, a présenté le document portant sur ce point et a rendu compte des actions menées comme suite aux demandes formulées par la Commission à sa trente-neuvième session.

73. La Commission s'est félicitée des progrès réalisés et a souligné l'importance des travaux de la FAO dans les domaines ci-après :

- a) Les espèces envahissantes et la manière d'atténuer les effets des scolytes dans la région ;
- b) L'adaptation aux changements climatiques et la résilience dans ce domaine ;

c) La surveillance des forêts et l'établissement de rapports à ce sujet, notamment l'Ensemble commun d'indicateurs forestiers mondiaux, ainsi que la terminologie et les définitions relatives à la dégradation ;

d) Les partenariats entre le secteur public et le secteur privé, en particulier dans le domaine de la restauration.

74. La Commission a recommandé à la FAO de communiquer plus fréquemment des informations mises à jour sur les changements survenus concernant la zone forestière et l'utilisation des terres dans le cadre du programme d'évaluation des ressources forestières mondiales (FRA).

B. Présentation des activités forestières menées par le Bureau régional de la FAO pour l'Europe et l'Asie centrale

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/15/Rev.2 ; FO:EFC/2019/15/Rev.2.

75. M^{me} Shiroma Sathyapala, responsable de la foresterie au Bureau régional de la FAO pour l'Europe et l'Asie centrale, a présenté les activités menées par le Bureau régional pendant la période 2018-2019.

76. M. Peter Pechacek, responsable de la foresterie au Bureau sous-régional de la FAO pour l'Asie centrale, a présenté les activités menées par le Bureau sous-régional pendant la période 2018-2019.

77. Les représentants ont accueilli les exposés avec intérêt et ont salué le travail accompli par la FAO dans la région.

78. La Commission a encouragé les pays de la région :

a) À intégrer de manière plus efficace les démarches paysagères des divers organismes d'aménagement foncier chargés de l'agriculture, de la foresterie et de la pêche aux processus de planification nationale pertinents et améliorer la collaboration intersectorielle à l'échelle des paysages ;

b) À fournir des contributions financières et/ou en nature pour soutenir les programmes forestiers régionaux de la FAO, et les activités de la FAO relatives aux projets, en particulier en vue de fournir un financement complémentaire aux projets du Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (FEM) et du Fonds vert pour le climat (FVC).

79. La Commission a recommandé à la FAO :

a) De continuer d'intégrer les démarches paysagères aux activités forestières fonctionnelles dans la région, en tenant pleinement compte des rôles multifonctionnels des forêts ;

b) De continuer d'appuyer la gestion des ressources naturelles (notamment les forêts) au moyen de politiques nationales renforcées, de financements, d'incitations, et de cadres et mesures ayant trait à la fiscalité et à la gouvernance, y compris les réglementations, les normes et le suivi des interventions et pratiques en matière de gestion forestière, et le renforcement des capacités dans ces domaines ;

c) De continuer de soutenir le Réseau « Espèces forestières envahissantes en Europe et en Asie centrale » (REUFIS) et ses activités, notamment en organisant des formations thématiques sur les nouvelles espèces envahissantes et en cherchant à établir des synergies avec d'autres organisations concernées telles que Forest Europe ;

d) De renforcer la coopération régionale dans la lutte contre les incendies de forêt.

C. Progrès accomplis par Silva Mediterranea

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/16 ; FO:EFC/2019/16.

80. M. Chadi Mohanna, Président de Silva Mediterranea, a donné un aperçu des activités menées sous les auspices du Comité des questions forestières méditerranéennes (Silva Mediterranea), notamment le rapport sur l'état des forêts méditerranéennes, les réalisations des groupes de travail et la sixième Semaine forestière méditerranéenne.

81. La Commission s'est félicitée des activités présentées et :

a) A engagé la FAO à étudier les moyens d'élaborer et de mettre en œuvre le projet « MedForYouth-Empowering Young Entrepreneurs around the Mediterranean » ;

b) A invité toutes les parties intéressées à contribuer à la préparation de la septième Semaine forestière méditerranéenne qui se tiendra en 2021 en Tunisie et a encouragé une participation de haut niveau à cette manifestation.

D. Rapport d'activité du Groupe de travail de la CEF sur l'aménagement des bassins versants de montagne

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/17 ; FO:EFC/2019/17.

82. M^{me} Yuka Makino, secrétaire du Groupe de travail de la CEF sur l'aménagement des bassins versants de montagne, a présenté les activités du Groupe de travail, notamment sa dernière initiative sur la fonction de protection des forêts dans un climat en évolution.

83. La Commission a pris note des activités du Groupe de travail et a appuyé les recommandations contenues dans le document.

E. Table ronde consacrée au nouveau risque que les espèces envahissantes constituent pour les forêts européennes

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/18 ; FO:EFC/2019/18.

84. Au cours de cette table ronde animée par le Président, les intervenants ont examiné les multiples dimensions des risques associés aux espèces envahissantes. Les participants à la table ronde :

a) Ont pris acte des menaces accrues que représentaient les espèces envahissantes pour les forêts de la région et de la nécessité de s'attaquer sans attendre à ce problème transfrontalier aux niveaux national, régional et mondial, sur les plans tant politique qu'opérationnel ;

b) Ont constaté qu'il importait d'appuyer les organisations et les réseaux régionaux afin de partager les informations et les compétences relatives aux espèces envahissantes dans les forêts et de renforcer les capacités dans ce domaine ;

c) Ont souligné l'importance de la sensibilisation de la population et d'une communication renforcée en vue d'atteindre toutes les catégories sociodémographiques ;

d) Ont souligné qu'il était nécessaire de développer la collaboration s'agissant des activités transfrontalières de prévention et de gestion des espèces envahissantes dans les forêts et de la mise en place de politiques nationales et régionales de coopération opérationnelle ;

e) Ont constaté qu'il était nécessaire de renforcer les capacités d'application des méthodes de lutte intégrée contre les ravageurs et de mise en œuvre des mesures phytosanitaires dans le secteur forestier ;

f) Ont constaté la menace accrue que les scolytes faisaient peser sur les forêts de la région, leurs effets sur le marché du bois et la nécessité d'améliorer la résilience des forêts aux infestations par le scolyte compte tenu des effets des changements climatiques.

85. La Commission a encouragé les pays de la région à renforcer leur participation au Réseau des espèces envahissantes des forêts d'Europe et d'Asie centrale et à contribuer à ses activités en faveur du renforcement de la collaboration régionale en matière de protection de la santé des forêts et de contrôle des espèces forestières envahissantes dans la région.

86. La Commission a prié la FAO :

a) De continuer d'appuyer le Réseau des espèces envahissantes des forêts d'Europe et d'Asie centrale et la mise en œuvre de ses activités ;

b) D'appuyer les mesures intersectorielles de protection des végétaux pour contribuer à la préservation de la diversité biologique, à l'adaptation aux changements climatiques et à l'atténuation de leurs effets.

F. Travaux de la FAO dans le domaine de la biodiversité

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/19 ; FO:EFC/2019/19.

87. M. Jarkko Koskela, responsable de la foresterie à la FAO, a fait le point sur les travaux menés par la FAO au niveau mondial dans le domaine de la biodiversité, notamment sur la session que la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture avait tenue peu auparavant et sur l'élaboration de la stratégie de la FAO pour la prise en compte systématique de la biodiversité dans toutes les filières agricoles.

88. La Commission a invité les pays membres :

a) À continuer d'intégrer la biodiversité dans tous les secteurs de l'agriculture ;

b) À fournir des informations en retour sur la Stratégie de la FAO relative à l'intégration de la biodiversité dans tous les secteurs de l'agriculture ;

c) À renforcer la mise en œuvre des accords internationaux relatifs à la biodiversité et aux forêts, ainsi que le Plan d'action mondial pour la conservation, l'utilisation durable et la mise en valeur des ressources génétiques forestières ;

89. La Commission a encouragé les pays à établir leurs rapports nationaux en vue de l'élaboration du deuxième rapport sur l'état des ressources génétiques forestières dans le monde, et à les soumettre à la FAO le 30 juin 2020 au plus tard.

90. La Commission a prié la FAO :

a) De commencer, dans le prolongement de l'adoption de la Stratégie de la FAO relative à l'intégration de la biodiversité dans tous les secteurs de l'agriculture, à mettre en œuvre des mesures de suivi appropriées, y compris un plan pour l'intégration de la biodiversité dans le secteur forestier, et de faire le point à la prochaine session appropriée ;

b) De continuer de rendre compte aux commissions régionales des forêts des travaux de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture concernant les forêts, de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action mondial pour la conservation, l'utilisation durable et la mise en valeur des ressources génétiques forestières et de l'élaboration du deuxième rapport sur l'état des ressources génétiques forestières dans le monde.

G. Rôle des chaînes de valeur durables du bois dans la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable

91. M. Peter Csoka, responsable principal de la foresterie à la FAO, a présenté l'initiative mondiale de la FAO intitulée « Du bois durable pour un monde durable » et le rôle joué par la chaîne de valeur du bois durable dans la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable.

92. La Commission a invité les pays de la région :
- a) À soutenir les objectifs de l'initiative « Du bois durable pour un monde durable » ainsi que leur diffusion et leur mise en œuvre ;
 - b) À renforcer l'initiative en la reliant à d'autres processus et initiatives pertinents, aux niveaux mondial, régional et national ;
 - c) À fournir des contributions financières et/ou en nature pour faire progresser l'initiative.
93. La Commission a prié la FAO :
- a) De soutenir les efforts déployés par les pays de la région pour évaluer et exploiter les principales contributions des chaînes de valeur durables du bois à la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable et à la lutte contre les changements climatiques, ainsi que pour promouvoir et renforcer la bioéconomie fondée sur l'utilisation du bois au niveau national ;
 - b) De rechercher une coopération plus poussée avec les partenaires régionaux pour renforcer les chaînes de valeur durables du bois et leur contribution à la gestion durable des forêts et à la réalisation des objectifs en matière de paysages durables et de lutte contre les changements climatiques, notamment en lien avec la Décennie de l'agriculture familiale et la Décennie pour la restauration des écosystèmes ;
 - c) De collaborer avec les secteurs public et privé pour améliorer la perception du public à l'égard des produits du bois durables, en mettant l'accent sur les avantages des chaînes de valeur du bois durables et en soulignant les différences entre les produits du bois durables et non durables.

H. Processus mondiaux

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/20 ; FO:EFC/2019/20.

94. M^{me} Mette Wilkie, Directrice de division à la FAO, a présenté les résultats de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, du Forum politique de haut niveau pour le développement durable de 2019, du Sommet Action Climat des Nations Unies, du Forum mondial sur les forêts urbaines, du Congrès mondial d'agroforesterie, des Décennies des Nations Unies pour l'agriculture familiale et pour la restauration des écosystèmes, ainsi que les implications de la réforme de l'ONU et de la réforme de la Commission internationale du peuplier.

95. La Commission :
- a) A pris note des résultats de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques concernant les forêts et a invité les pays à réfléchir à la manière d'augmenter la part de leurs contributions déterminées au niveau national relative aux forêts ;
 - b) A pris note des résultats liés aux forêts de la quatorzième réunion de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique et a invité les pays à contribuer à l'élaboration du cadre mondial de la biodiversité pour l'après-2020 ;
 - c) A pris note des conclusions du forum politique de haut niveau pour le développement durable et des efforts visant à mettre en œuvre les engagements relatifs aux forêts énumérés dans la Déclaration ministérielle ;
 - d) A invité les pays à promouvoir des solutions fondées sur la nature pour lutter contre les changements climatiques et les a encouragés à mettre en œuvre les solutions présentées au Sommet Action Climat des Nations Unies ;
 - e) A pris note des résultats du premier Forum mondial sur les forêts urbaines et a invité les pays à promouvoir l'initiative des villes arborées du monde ;

f) A recommandé au Comité des forêts d'examiner les possibilités offertes par la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'agriculture familiale et par la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la restauration des écosystèmes en vue d'intensifier les activités de restauration des forêts et des paysages ;

g) A pris note du processus de réforme des Nations Unies et a encouragé les pays en développement à veiller à ce que les questions forestières reçoivent la priorité qu'elles méritent dans l'élaboration des documents du Plan-cadre de coopération des Nations Unies pour le développement durable concernant leur pays ;

h) A invité les pays membres de la Commission internationale du peuplier à participer à la poursuite de sa réforme et a engagé les pays non membres de la CIP à envisager d'adhérer à celle-ci, compte tenu de ses attributions élargies.

96. La Commission a prié la FAO :

a) De continuer de contribuer à l'action mondiale en faveur du climat et de promouvoir les initiatives, projets et programmes relatifs aux forêts, ainsi que d'aider les pays à formuler les propositions relatives aux forêts et aux autres utilisations des terres qu'ils souhaitent soumettre au Fonds vert pour le climat ;

b) D'étudier les moyens de contribuer à améliorer encore la contribution du secteur forestier au cadre mondial de la biodiversité pour l'après-2020 et de souligner l'importance du contexte au niveau local ;

c) De continuer de promouvoir les activités de foresterie urbaine ;

d) De participer activement à la Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'agriculture familiale et d'accroître son soutien aux organisations de producteurs forestiers et agricoles par l'intermédiaire du Mécanisme forêts et paysans ;

e) D'informer le Comité des forêts des activités prévues dans le cadre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la restauration des écosystèmes.

f) D'appuyer la mise en œuvre des activités prioritaires énumérées dans la communication de l'UE intitulée « Intensifier l'action de l'UE pour la protection et la restauration des forêts du monde ».

97. Le représentant du secrétariat du FNUF, M. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, a fait deux interventions concernant les points 5 h) et 5 i) de l'ordre du jour. Dans sa déclaration au titre du point 5 h), il a mis en avant certains résultats majeurs du Sommet Action Climat des Nations Unies qui s'était tenu peu de temps auparavant et du Sommet de l'ONU sur les objectifs de développement durable, ainsi que la contribution et la participation du FNUF au forum politique de haut niveau pour le développement durable en 2019. Il a également fourni des informations sur les faits récents concernant le nouveau programme de travail du forum politique de haut niveau, ainsi que sur le thème commun du prochain cycle de travail du Conseil économique et social et du forum politique de haut niveau en 2020.

98. Au titre du point 5 i) de l'ordre du jour, le représentant du secrétariat du FNUF a informé les participants à la réunion des principaux résultats de la quatorzième session du FNUF. Il a fait le point sur les activités intersessions en vue de la tenue de la quinzième session du FNUF, notamment sur la collaboration avec les commissions régionales des forêts de la FAO, l'élaboration de la publication phare, les progrès réalisés concernant l'Ensemble commun d'indicateurs forestiers, l'élaboration des rapports nationaux à soumettre à la quinzième session du FNUF, et les prochaines réunions sur le mécanisme d'échange d'informations du Réseau mondial de facilitation du financement forestier et le programme de travail quadriennal du Forum pour 2021-2024.

I. Mise en œuvre du plan stratégique des Nations Unies sur les forêts et collaboration avec le Forum des Nations Unies sur les forêts (FNUF), au-delà du Programme de travail intégré de Varsovie

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/21 ; FO:EFC/2019/21.

99. M^{me} Mette Wilkie, Directrice de la Division des politiques et des ressources forestières de la FAO, a présenté les principaux résultats de la quatorzième session du Forum des Nations Unies sur les forêts (FNUF), et notamment des délibérations du Forum sur la dimension régionale ainsi que des actions mondiales et régionales de la FAO à l'appui du Plan stratégique des Nations Unies sur les forêts.

100. La Commission a examiné les possibilités de renforcer les liens entre ses activités et celles du Plan stratégique des Nations Unies sur les forêts, et a prié la FAO :

- a) De maintenir son soutien à la mise en œuvre du Plan stratégique ;
- b) De collaborer avec le secrétariat du FNUF pour examiner la possibilité d'organiser des manifestations régionales pendant les sessions techniques du Forum afin de renforcer les relations aux niveaux mondial et régional et de mettre en évidence la contribution des commissions régionales des forêts et d'autres partenaires régionaux et sous-régionaux du FNUF à la mise en œuvre du Plan stratégique et à la réalisation des objectifs forestiers mondiaux ;
- c) De continuer d'exercer son rôle de chef de file au sein du Partenariat de collaboration sur les forêts.

J. Préparatifs de la trente-deuxième session de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe, de la vingt-cinquième session du Comité des forêts et du XV^e Congrès forestier mondial (gouvernance de la FAO)

Documents : ECE/TIM/2019/22 ; FO:EFC/2019/22.

101. M. Peter Csoka, responsable principal de la foresterie à la FAO, a présenté les préparatifs de la trente-deuxième session de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe, de la vingt-cinquième session du Comité des forêts (COFO) en 2020, et du XV^e Congrès forestier mondial.

102. La Commission :

- a) A élaboré ses recommandations pour la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe, le COFO et les priorités du programme et a demandé au secrétariat de les présenter sous la forme d'un modèle (voir annexe VII) et de les communiquer aux autres commissions ainsi qu'aux secrétariats de la Conférence régionale et du COFO ;
- b) A invité le Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe à accorder la place qui convenait aux recommandations de la Commission dans l'ordre du jour de la Conférence.

103. La Commission :

- a) A invité les pays à fournir un appui au XV^e Congrès forestier mondial et à encourager la plus large participation possible de tous les secteurs de la région ;
- b) Sur la base des questions prioritaires dans la région, a proposé des thèmes et des sujets qui pourraient servir de base aux sessions techniques du Congrès ;
- c) A encouragé les membres, si besoin était, à soutenir financièrement le Congrès, en particulier la participation des pays en développement.

K. Élection du Bureau, date et lieu de la prochaine réunion

104. Le Président a informé les représentants participant à la réunion que quatre manifestations d'intérêt avaient été reçues pour les deux postes de vice-présidents qui seraient vacants à la fin de la session en cours.

105. Une question a été soulevée à propos de l'éligibilité et de l'inscription en référence au paragraphe 2 de l'article I et au paragraphe 1 de l'article II du règlement intérieur de la CEF.

106. Une question a été soulevée concernant l'éligibilité des candidats qui n'étaient pas présents à la session en cours. Le secrétariat de la Commission a précisé qu'une personne ne participant pas à la réunion avait précédemment été élue membre du Comité exécutif. Les participants ont demandé l'avis du conseiller juridique de la FAO, qui a estimé qu'il n'était pas nécessaire qu'un candidat soit présent pour être éligible.

107. En application de l'article 6 du règlement intérieur de la CEF et de l'article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Président a demandé à la secrétaire de vérifier si le quorum était atteint avant de procéder au vote.

108. La secrétaire de la CEF a procédé à un appel nominal pour établir le nombre de membres présents. Elle a appelé chaque pays, et les représentants présents se sont signalés. Cet appel nominal a permis de constater que les représentants de 18 des 39 États membres ainsi que de l'Union européenne étaient présents. Le quorum de 20 représentants n'étant pas atteint, le Président a déclaré qu'en application de l'article XII 2.b du Règlement général, il n'était pas possible de procéder au vote.

109. La Commission a demandé au secrétariat d'organiser une session extraordinaire de la CEF dans les meilleurs délais, en soulignant qu'il était urgent de procéder à l'élection au moyen d'un des mécanismes existants, par exemple par l'intermédiaire des représentants permanents auprès de la FAO à Rome, pendant la session du Groupe de travail conjoint CEE/FAO sur les statistiques, l'économie et la gestion forestières en mars 2020, ou pendant la session du COFO en 2020.

110. Les débats tenus au titre de ce point de l'ordre du jour ont été enregistrés et leur transcription figure à l'annexe VIII.

L. Questions diverses

111. En rapport avec le point 3 c) de l'ordre du jour (Questions communes intéressant le Comité et la Commission), l'Arménie a rendu compte d'une manifestation parallèle relative à la Stratégie de restauration des paysages et de mise en place d'infrastructures plus écologiques en Asie centrale et dans le Caucase. Le document s'y rapportant devrait être approuvé en 2020.

IX. Adoption du rapport de la session conjointe et clôture de la session (point 6 de l'ordre du jour)

112. Le secrétariat a indiqué qu'aucune offre n'avait encore été reçue des États membres pour l'accueil de la prochaine session conjointe en 2021. Le secrétariat tiendra les États membres informés de la date et du lieu proposés pour cette session.

113. Le Comité et la Commission ont adopté le présent rapport en séance.

114. Les Coprésidents de la session ont remercié les représentants de leur contribution au rapport. Le secrétariat a informé les participants que le rapport final édité serait publié prochainement.

115. La session conjointe a été close le jeudi 7 novembre 2019 à 18 h 45.

Annexe I

[Anglais seulement]

Timeline of the Strategic Review of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW)

Phase I: review of the 2018-2021 WIPoW

November 2019

Agreement on the methodology and scope of the Strategic Review (SR) at the COFFI/EFC session in November 2019.

January 2020 – March 2020

Discussion on the SR roadmap, review of the draft questionnaire for the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) stakeholders' survey at the Joint Bureaux (JB) meeting, approval of the Strategic Survey roadmap on the preparation of the 2022-2025 IPoW. Relevant discussions on the work of Teams of Specialists (ToS) will be held at the ECE/FAO Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (JWP) meeting.

April 2020

The questionnaire is shared with stakeholders.

April – June 2020

The secretariat prepares its assessment of work and outputs.

June – July 2020

Compilation and analysis of survey results.

September 2020

The Secretariat's first draft of the new IPoW and summary of survey results shared with JB for review.

October 2020

Second draft of the new IPoW and summary of survey results will be shared with member States and other stakeholders. Organization of a special workshop and discussion of the first draft of the 2022-2025 IPoW with the participation of interested stakeholders and members of the JB.

November 2020

Presentation of the SR process and the results of the stakeholders' survey by the secretariat at the COFFI session for further inputs and discussion on the future programme.

Phase II: preparation of the 2022-2025 IPoW

January 2021

JB's first draft of the 2022-2025 IPoW to be shared with member States and other stakeholders.

May 2021

JB's second draft to be discussed with stakeholders at the JWP, and afterwards by the JB for final review.

June/July 2021

JB's final draft to be completed before mid-July 2021.

October 2021

Joint sessions of COFFI and the EFC finalize and adopt the new 2022-2025 IPoW.

January 2022

Implementation of the new IPoW begins.

Annexe II

[Anglais seulement]

New and amended Terms of References of the Teams of Specialists

I. Draft Terms of Reference of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests

Reference to the Integrated Programme of Work: Work Area 1, “Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment”, and Work Area 2, “Policy dialogue and advice”

A. Objective(s)³

- Contribute to science and policy cooperation on boreal forests, while reducing duplication of effort and encouraging the pursuit of cost-effective approaches for circumboreal cooperation;
- Increase collaboration with the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) and other boreal-related research organizations, in order to strengthen science and policy cooperation with regards to the boreal biome;
- Improve awareness and understanding of the role boreal forests play in global issues such as climate change and the bioeconomy, as well as in addressing the challenges reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Advise the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on any matters related to boreal forests within the integrated programme of work.

B. Activities and functions

- Contribute to the exchange of information, experiences and best practices on boreal forests;
- Facilitate a science policy dialogue on boreal forest issues;
- Where appropriate, contribute to identifying knowledge gaps that – when addressed – can provide policy responses to international challenges;
- Work with other international bodies, including the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA), with a view to achieving coordination of initiatives;
- Collaborate with other ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists on cross-cutting issues.

C. Expected Major Outputs

1. The Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests will identify priority issues for the sustainable management of boreal forests, taking into account regional realities and differences. The Team will focus on increasing knowledge and understanding of issues related to boreal forests.

³ As outlined in the Haparanda Declaration of 2018.

2. It will:
 - Produce (and contribute to the production of) information products that reflect collaborative efforts on boreal forest issues, e.g. in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, and the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work;
 - Produce, based on existing information, assessment and scoping documents, presentations and other information products describing existing conditions in boreal forests, and identifying important issues and opportunities in their management;
 - Provide consultation and advice on boreal-related issues as needed.

D. Background

Established/	Joint Sessions of ECE COFFI and FAO EFC, Geneva,
Approved by:	Switzerland, 2019.
Duration:	From January 2020 to December 2021.
Methods of work:	Annual meeting or other methods to be determined by the Team.
Reporting:	Annually, to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
Team leader:	To be elected at first Team meeting

II. ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook

Reference to the Integrated Programme of Work: Work Area 1, “Data, monitoring and assessment”, Work Area 2, “Policy dialogue and advice” and Work Area 4, “Capacity-building”

A. Objectives

1. To advise and support the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on the methodology, preparation and implementation of outlook studies. Serve as a repository of global, regional, sub-regional and national forest sector outlook studies; and forest policy developments; and facilitate exchange of knowledge.

B. Activities and functions

2. Provide support and expertise to the secretariat to conduct a forest sector outlook study and related documents.
3. Present the findings of the studies in public forums, such as scientific and professional meetings.
4. Provide guidance on methods, analysis and conduct of forest sector outlook studies.
5. Provide support to the secretariat for enhancing member States’ capacities on forest sector outlook studies.
6. Identify scenarios based on: structural developments in the forest sector; long-term supply and demand of wood and other goods and services; as well as impacts and implications of international and national policy developments.
7. Advise on timeline for new outlook studies and identify potential contributors and donors.
8. Undertake research in support of forest sector outlook studies.

9. Facilitate exchange of experience with forest sector outlook modelling among member States and contribute to increased capacities at national level to conduct forest sector outlook studies.
10. Provide an overview on alternative forest sector models.
11. Consider other cost-effective tools and studies for analysing policy impacts on the forest sector, such as foresight studies.
12. Contribute to strengthen policy-related components of the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section's work and publications and disseminate information in support of decision-making processes with regards to outlook studies and international forest policy developments (creation of policy briefs, sharing of informative materials).

C. Expected major outputs and contributions

13. Publication of the ECE/FAO Forest Sector Outlook Study and related documents.
14. Provide national level results of outlook studies, if resources are made available.

D. Background

Established/ Approved by:	Joint Sessions of ECE COFFI and FAO EFC, Geneva, Switzerland, 2019.
Duration:	From January 2020 to December 2021.
Methods of work:	Section 1.01 Section 1.01 Annual meeting or other methods to be determined by the Team.
Reporting:	(i) (i) Annually, to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
Team leader:	(ii) (ii) To be elected at first Team meeting

Annexe III

[Anglais seulement]

Approved list of activities for 2020

I. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

A. Forest resources

1. **Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services, Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy**
 - 2020 reporting cycle of the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): cooperation with FAO and other CFRQ partners on the finalization of the final repository of FRA data;
 - Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests (jointly with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava, in coordination with the FAO FRA secretariat): production of the interactive database coordinated with the FRA repository;
 - Review of collection process, national questionnaire on forest ownership in the ECE region, voluntary verification/update of the 2015 data on forest ownership;
 - Production of a website on forest and forest sector data in the ECE countries.
2. **Analysis and assessment of the state of forests and the sustainability of forest management; and the monitoring of the role of the forest sector in a green economy**
 - Assessment of forest condition including the impact by biotic and abiotic disturbances; review of formats for international reporting including on forest disturbance;
 - 2020 reporting cycle of the Global FRA and CFRQ: support to FAO FRA secretariat to the finalization and dissemination of the main outputs;
 - Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests: support to the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava and the FAO FRA secretariat to the finalization and dissemination of the main outputs;
3. **Cooperation with, and support to, international processes in SFM, including regional criteria and indicator (C&I) processes**
 - Support to the UNFF Secretariat on reporting the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the related Communication Strategy;
 - Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe) in the region on monitoring SFM;
 - Contribution to capacity building on C&Is under the UNDA project (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), subject to the confirmation of the project extension;
 - Organization of the meeting(s) of the ToS on Monitoring SFM.

B. Forest products and markets

1. Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products

- Preparation of historical data on forest products, species trade, and prices;
- Preparation of forecast data on forest products production and trade;
- Improvement of the existing database and expansion of available information;
- Dissemination through FAOSTAT and ECE websites.

2. Analysis of markets for forest products, notably relevant policy aspects, including the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) and annual Market Discussions

- Publication of the FPAMR 2019-2020;
- Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2019-2020;
- Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2020-2021;
- Preparation of the Market Discussion 2020 and the Market Statement 2020;
- Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings;
- Assessment of impact of biotic and abiotic disturbances on forest products markets.

3. Support of international processes in forest products

- Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;
- Organization of the meetings of the ToS on Forest Products Statistics and the ToS on Sustainable Forest Products.

C. Wood energy

1. Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy

- Preparation and issuance of 2019 Joint Wood Energy Enquiry;
- Dissemination of the 2017 JWEE data at relevant international meetings;
- Increasing visibility of ECE wood energy data.

2. Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand for, and supply of, wood energy

- Preparation of a new study on wood energy;
- Provide input to the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews on forests.

3. Support of international processes in wood energy

- Presentation of the wood energy work at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant processes (e.g. International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, Wood Energy Days etc.);
- Organization of meeting of the ToS on Wood Energy.

II. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

A. Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under Work Areas 1, 3 and 4

- Organisation of National Forest Policy Dialogues (NFPD) workshops in interested countries;
- Monitoring of developments in global and regional forest policy process (UNFF; Forest Europe, SDG) and contributions, as relevant, to these processes;
- Support the continued implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests by providing policy dialogues at the regional and national level.

B. The role of the forest sector in a circular bio-economy

- Pursuing related activities containing research and stock taking elements, as well as proposals for guidance tools and recommendations for member States, taking into account discussions held during the Joint Session (see paragraph 26, page 3 of this document);
- Exploring the issue of wood-based value chains in a circular bio-economy;
- Promotion and dissemination of the social dimension of the circular and bio-economy:
- Study on the Forest Sector Workforce;
- “Guidelines on the promotion of green jobs in forestry”;
- Publication and/or other communication materials (e.g. video, brochure) on the role of the forest sector in a circular bio-economy.

C. Forest Sector Outlook

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook;
- Publishing and disseminating the Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region;
- Organization of capacity building in the area of forest sector outlook modelling.

D. Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policymaking for the forest sector

- Organisation of the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South East Europe.

E. Boreal Forests

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the ToS on Boreal Forests;
- Publication of information products describing existing conditions in boreal forests and identifying important issues and opportunities in their management.

III. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

A. Organization of events and campaigns in support of SFM and forest products and services

- International Day of Forests (IDF) on Forests and Biodiversity, 21 March 2020 (to be celebrated on 23 March 2020), Geneva, Switzerland;
- Side event at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF15), May 2020, New York, United States of America;
- Communicating the potential of sustainable wood products in the circular bioeconomy across sectors through organization of events and exhibitions;
- Communication campaigns (e.g. Trees in Cities Challenge, Forests for Fashion initiative);
- Disseminate and promote the publications “Guidelines for the development of a criteria and indicators set for sustainable forest management”, “State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia” and “Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia”.

B. Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information is released

- Promotion and dissemination of studies and publications.

C. Press releases will be published to present the outcomes of workshops, events and publications. Outreach activities beyond the forest sector, disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building, etc.)

- Events organized in the margins of main forest related as well as cross-sectional meetings.

IV. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

A. Forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge

- Technical workshop(s) on forest landscape restoration and afforestation;
- Ministerial Meeting on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge for Eastern and South-East Europe.

B. Organization of capacity-building workshops

- Capacity building workshop for national correspondents on wood energy (Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2019);
- Capacity building event for national forest sector modelling for experts from CIS countries. Further capacity building events related to forest sector outlook if resources allow.

C. Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the ToS on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector.

V. Monitoring and management of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work

A. Intergovernmental Meetings

- Organization of the meeting of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management in 2020;
- Organization of the seventy-eighth session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in 2020.

B. Bureaux Meetings

- Organization of Bureaux meetings upon request of the Chairs of COFFI and EFC.

C. Strategic review 2020

- Organization of a workshop on the review of the Warsaw Integrated Program of Work; Evaluation/assessment for the review in line with what is decided by COFFI/EFC in November 2020.

Annexe IV

[Anglais seulement]

I. Details of approved publications and promotional material for 2020 and 2021

A. Recurrent publications in 2020

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (all listed here are regular budget)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Forest Products Annual Market Review 2019-2020	Print	A4	206	E	F, R (all RB)	600E, 50F, 150R
2	COFFI Forecast for Forest Products Markets	Electronic	A4	44	E		

B. Non-recurrent publications in 2020

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (all listed here are regular budget)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
3	Forestry and Timber Study Paper	Print	A4	147	E		2000E, 200F, 500R
4	Forestry and Timber Study Paper	Print	A4	147	E	R	600E, 150R
5	Forestry and Timber Discussion Paper	Print	A4	118	E		600E
6	Forestry and Timber Discussion Paper	Electronic	A4	118	E		
7	Forestry and Timber Discussion Paper	Electronic	A4	118	E		

C. Promotional material in 2020

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (all listed here are regular budget)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Brochure on Sustainable Forest Management	Print	A4	10	E	R	100 E/R

A. Recurrent publications in 2021

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (all listed here are regular budget)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Forest Products Annual Market Review 2020-2021	Print	A4	206	E	F, R (all RB)	600E, 50F, 150R
2	COFFI Forecast for Forest Products Markets	Electronic	A4	44	E		

B. Non-recurrent publications in 2021

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (all listed here are regular budget)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
3	Forestry and Timber Publication	Print	A4	147	E	R	600E, 100F150R
4	Forestry and Timber Publication	Print	A4	147	E	R	600E, 150R
5	Forestry and Timber Publication	Print	A4	118	E		600E
6	Forestry and Timber Publication	Electronic	A4	118	E		
7	Forestry and Timber Publication	Electronic	A4	118	E		

C. Promotional material in 2021

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (all listed here are regular budget)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Brochure on Sustainable Forest Management	Print	A4	10	E	R	100 E/R

Annexe V

[Anglais seulement]

Market Statement

I. Overview of forest products markets in 2018 and 2019

1. General conditions in forest products markets in the ECE region were mixed in 2018, with consumption increasing (over the previous year) in sawnwood (+1.5%), wood-based panels (+1.4%) and industrial roundwood (+5.8%). In contrast, the consumption of paper and paperboard continued to decline in Europe and North America in 2018, although there was a year-on-year increase in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)⁴ of 2.6%. Overall, the consumption of paper and paperboard declined in the ECE region by 1.0% in 2018 (table 1).

Table 1

Apparent consumption of industrial roundwood, sawnwood, wood-based panels and paper and paperboard in ECE region, 2014-2018

	Thousand	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change (volume) 2017-2018	Change(%) 2017-2018	Change (%) 2014-2018
Industrial roundwood									
Europe	m ³	397,156	401,593	410,270	407,580	432,628	25,048	6.1	8.9
EECCA	m ³	181,822	185,471	194,721	198,418	226,389	27,972	14.1	24.5
North America	m ³	490,150	494,222	498,494	494,953	506,154	11,201	2.3	3.3
ECE region	m ³	1,069,128	1,081,286	1,103,486	1,100,951	1,165,171	64,221	5.8	9.0
Sawnwood									
Europe	m ³	100,976	103,760	107,552	110,698	113,013	2,315	2.1	11.9
EECCA	m ³	19,247	17,219	16,689	18,041	18,187	146	0.8	-5.5
North America	m ³	106,274	112,603	117,570	118,392	119,530	1,138	1.0	12.5
ECE region	m ³	226,497	233,582	241,811	247,132	250,730	3,599	1.5	10.7
Wood-based panels									
Europe	m ³	66,931	68,659	71,916	74,299	75,670	1,371	1.8	13.1
EECCA	m ³	17,190	17,164	16,836	18,485	20,265	1,780	9.6	17.9
North America	m ³	50,392	52,623	53,601	56,603	55,509	-1,094	-1.9	10.2
ECE region	m ³	134,513	138,446	142,353	149,388	151,445	2,057	1.4	12.6
Paper and paperboard									
Europe	m.t.	89,361	88,365	88,430	89,565	88,465	-1,100	-1.2	-1.0
EECCA	m.t.	9,397	9,106	9,561	9,520	9,772	252	2.6	4.0
North America	m.t.	76,053	75,651	75,602	75,037	74,205	-832	-1.1	-2.4
ECE region	m.t.	174,811	173,123	173,593	174,122	172,442	-1,680	-1.0	-1.4

Notes: Sawnwood include sleepers after 2016. m.t. is metric tons.

Source: FAOSTAT, 2019.

⁴ The term Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) refers collectively to 12 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

A. Economic developments with implications on the forest sector

2. The pace of economic expansion in the ECE region was more or less unchanged in 2018, although the dynamics of various groups of countries differed. Economic growth accelerated in the US, supported by fiscal stimulus and a robust labour market. Economic activity moderated in the euro area as export growth weakened throughout the year. The new EU member countries fared relatively well in a more adverse external environment, and output continued to accelerate in a number of countries. A recovery gained strength in the EECCA, driven by the improved performance of the Russian Federation. A more widespread slowdown is emerging in 2019, however, amid trade tensions, which remain a major source of uncertainty and are dampening investment.

3. Labour market dynamics continued to improve throughout the region in 2018. In the US, the sustained economic expansion was accompanied by rising wages, dragging additional workers into the labour force. Labour markets became tighter in the euro area, leading to accelerated wage growth that, however, has not yet translated into significant price pressures. Employment is at record levels, with particularly strong increases in the construction sector. Increases in the number of hours worked have trailed behind the growth of employment, however, reflecting a compositional shift towards a higher share of part-time employment. There are large disparities in unemployment rates between countries. In some new EU member countries, labour shortages have appeared in particular sectors despite an improved migratory balance. In the EECCA, wage growth accelerated amid falling unemployment.

4. Supported by growing incomes, housing prices continued to climb throughout the region in 2018. In the US, however, the growth deceleration that started in 2018 extended into early 2019. Construction activity in 2019 started slowly but is recovering to 2018 levels. The situation in the EU differed by country but, overall, housing prices continued to climb at a steady pace. Increasing housing demand has been supported by growing incomes and the availability of finance. Although house prices are above pre-global financial crisis levels in the euro area, residential investment is significantly lower. The growth of construction output decelerated, driven by the slowdown in building, which, in contrast, increased at double-digit rates in some new EU member countries. Survey data point to a softening of activity in early 2019. Labour shortages are increasingly mentioned as a factor limiting construction production, particularly in the large euro-area countries. Despite some deceleration, the ongoing recovery of housing markets is expected to continue, and this will support overall economic activity. In some EECCA countries, the rapid growth of mortgage financing has sparked concerns among monetary authorities. Housing prices have picked up in the Russian Federation after years of decline. Although construction activity recovered in 2018, the number of new residential buildings fell.

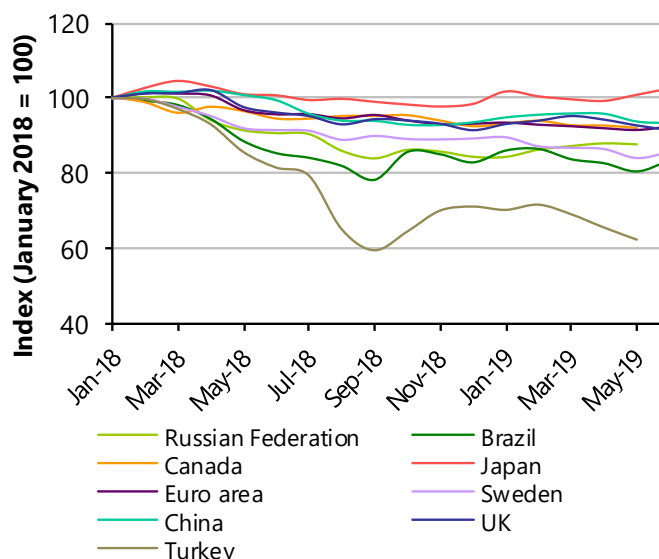
5. Despite the acceleration of economic growth and increasingly tight labour markets, inflationary pressures remained muted in the US. Monetary policy normalization continued in 2018, with four hikes in interest rate. In early 2019, however, monetary authorities clearly signalled the end of tightening, and there are growing market expectations that a cut could take place this year. The toll on the dollar of this monetary policy reversal has been relatively contained (graph 1.2.1). The nominal trade-weighted dollar exchange rate rose through most of 2018, with limited weakening in mid-2019. Monetary policy was highly accommodative in the euro area. The European Central Bank ended its quantitative easing programme in December 2018 but indicated that a significant monetary stimulus was still required for price stability over the medium term. Amid increased concerns about a deteriorating economic outlook and inflation well below target, further loosening is anticipated. In the EECCA, monetary authorities are expected to continue to cut rates, which remain relatively high in some countries, in a context of moderate growth prospects.

6. In the US, fiscal expansion contributed to the acceleration of economic activity in a context of weakening global growth, but the effects of this looser fiscal policy are expected to fade. Rising investment in 2018 mainly reflected an increase in demand due to additional spending, and the impact of tax cuts appears limited. Fiscal austerity has come to an end in the euro area and the expansionary stance in 2019 is helping to offset negative trends. Rather than a concerted effort, fiscal loosening reflects a variety of national initiatives, and

fiscal space differs widely across countries. Low financing costs have made debt more affordable and slowed the growth of public debt-to-gross national product ratios, but high debt is restricting fiscal expansion in those economies with higher unemployment rates. Conservative fiscal policies have continued in most EECCA countries, with energy-exporting economies rebuilding fiscal buffers, while external constraints and debt growth push others into fiscal consolidation.

7. The pace of economic activity has, as expected slowed in 2019, with waning momentum for growth throughout the region. The demand boost from the US fiscal stimulus is declining and the cyclical recovery is also losing steam in a number of economies with increasingly tight labour markets. In a context of lingering trade tensions and decelerating cross-border exchanges, domestic factors will play a greater role in driving future expansion. The projected economic slowdown has exacerbated concerns about the accumulation of corporate debt and the deterioration of credit quality. The process of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU has generated negative spillovers for other countries and damaged confidence. Many middle-income countries in the region are highly dependent on foreign financing and remain vulnerable to a deterioration in external conditions. In the EECCA, weaker commodity prices would weigh negatively on growth. The balance of risks in the ECE region remains firmly tilted to the downside, buffeted by continued policy uncertainty.

Graph 1.2.1
Major currencies used to trade forest products indexed against the US dollar, January 2018–June 2019



Note: A diminishing index value indicates a weakening of the currency value against the US dollar; an increasing index value indicates a strengthening of the currency value against the US dollar.

Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF Data), 2019. Available at: <http://data.imf.org/?sk=388DFA60-1D26-4ADE-B505-A05A558D9A42>.

B. Policy and regulatory developments affecting the forest products sector

8. The leadership of various levels of government is increasingly apparent in responsible-sourcing strategies, carbon programmes, renewable energy development and green building standards. After one year of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which came into force provisionally in September 2017, exports from the EU to Canada had risen 7%, including a 10% increase in furniture exports (according to annualized statistics for the October 2017 to June 2018 period).

9. It was estimated that, of the €3.78 billion of tropical wood products imported into the EU in 2017, 21% were Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)-licensed products from Indonesia and 54% were from the other 14 countries engaged on

FLEGT with the EU. An assessment of Ghana's timber legality assurance system has been initiated which could lead to Ghana becoming the first country in Africa to issue FLEGT licences.

10. The two major certification schemes – the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) – released data in February 2019 on their certified forest areas and the extent of double-certified forests indicating a further increase in the area of double-certification and a decline in the total (net) area of certified forest globally.

11. Between mid-2017 and mid-2018, the amount of double-certified forest increased from 71 million hectares to 86 million. The two certification programs reported a combined total of 510 million hectares certified as of mid-2018; after accounting for the double-certification, the total net certified forest area as of mid-2018 is 424 million hectares representing a decrease of 7 million hectares compared to the prior reporting period.

12. In 2018, FSC reported that approximately 423 million cubic meters of wood are harvested per year in FSC-certified forests around the world, representing 22.6% of global industrial roundwood production (all roundwood excluding fuel wood).

13. The EU's revised Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001/EU entered into force in December 2018 as part of the Clean Energy for all Europeans package, the aims of which are to ensure the EU remains a global leader in renewables and, more broadly, to help the EU meet its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate change. The Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) reported the production and sale of more than 9 million tonnes of SBP-certified biomass in 2018, an increase of 80% over 2017 and now accounting for the majority (65%) of EU28 pellet consumption. Five more countries are now active in the SBP, including Brazil.

14. Green building and the use of wood in the built environment continue to expand. The Government of the Russian Federation has approved incentives for the purchase of wooden houses. The 2018 provision will subsidize interest rates to banks providing credits to individuals purchasing prefabricated wooden houses from manufacturers. The International Code Council (ICC) has approved 14 changes to the tall mass timber code following a multiyear effort by the ICC Ad Hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings.

15. As leadership roles continue to evolve in the forest sector, it is evident that diverse private and public partnerships are vital for supporting innovations that aid the growth and success of forest product markets.

II. Summary of regional and subregional markets for key forest products

A. Wood raw materials

16. The total consumption of roundwood – comprising logs for industrial uses and fuel – in the ECE region was estimated at 1.4 billion m³ in 2018 after a sixth consecutive years of increase. The apparent consumption of logs for industrial purposes trended upward in the ECE region in the five years to 2018, to 1.19 billion m³, 5.1% higher than in 2014. Of the total volume of roundwood harvested in the ECE region in 2018, about 18% was used for fuel (257.1 million m³), an increase of 9.2 million m³ (+3.7%) over 2017. Europe accounted for 54% of total woodfuel consumption in the ECE region in 2017.

17. China was (again) the number-one importer of industrial softwood roundwood globally in 2018 (importing 40.1 million m³), followed by Austria (9.1 million m³), Germany (8.2 million m³), Sweden (6.6 million m³) and the Republic of Korea (3.9 million m³). The major log trade flows in 2018 were in the Pacific Rim, with shipments to China from New Zealand, the Russian Federation, the US and Australia accounting for four of the top five of these worldwide. In Europe, the major trade flows were from Czechia to Austria, from Poland to Germany and from Norway to Sweden.

18. It is estimated that storms and beetles have damaged about 140 million m³ of timber in Europe in the last two years, mainly in Austria, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, Slovakia and Switzerland.
19. Chinese importers have gradually shifted their historical preference for logs away from the Russian Federation towards New Zealand and instead are importing softwood lumber from the Russian Federation.
20. North America's log exports declined by 11.7% in 2018, to 18.4 million m³. China retaliated against US tariffs by imposing tariffs on some US forest products in the second half of 2018. US log shipments to China declined in the second half of the year and the fall continued into early 2019 (the first quarter of 2019 was down by almost 30% over the same quarter in 2018). Canada's log exports to China fell by 19% in 2018.
21. Sawlog price movements were mixed worldwide in 2018, although prices were mostly higher than in 2017. The biggest price declines between the first quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019 were in Europe, especially in the central and eastern parts. In North America, sawlog prices fell in the western US and eastern Canada, increased slightly in the US South, and jumped by 16% in Interior British Columbia.
22. The Committee forecasts that removals of industrial roundwood are expected to increase in the ECE region at an annual rate of 1.4% in 2019 and to increase 0.4% in 2020. The subregional breakdown is as follows: Europe is showing an increase of 1.3% in 2019, partly driven by the removals of bark beetle damaged wood (140 million m³) and a decline of 1.1% in 2020; the EECCA is expected to increase 2.3% in 2019 and then to gain 1.2% in 2020; and North America to increase by 1.1% in 2019 and 1.2% in 2020.

B. Sawn softwood

23. The three ECE subregions recorded mixed results in the consumption of sawn softwood in 2018, with modest increases in Europe and North America and a small decline in the EECCA. The production of sawn softwood increased in all three subregions, however. The recovery continued in North America for the ninth consecutive year, with sawn softwood consumption increasing by 1.0%, although it slowed in the second half of 2018 and into 2019. Consumption increased by 2.6% in Europe and decreased by 0.5% in the EECCA subregion.
24. Sawn softwood production increased by 1.7% in Europe in 2018, to 112.5 million m³. The increase was driven more by an increased European demand rather than by overseas exports.
25. Production increases in central Europe were well above European averages, due partly to timber salvage programmes to harvest trees damaged by storms and beetles. Output from Nordic mills was more moderate.
26. Prices increased for European sawn softwood in the first half of 2018 and dropped off in the second half; nevertheless, prices in 2018 were generally better than in 2017 and there was further improvement in early 2019.
27. Germany, Italy and the UK are the largest importers of sawn softwood in the subregion, accounting for 40% of the total volume. Imports to the UK and Italy declined by 11% and 4.6%, respectively, in 2018 but increased by 6.0% in Germany.
28. The volume of European sawn softwood exports was steady (+0.2%) in 2018, at 51.9 million m³. There was an increase in intraregional exports within Europe, but demand declined in the key overseas markets of China and Japan. Combined exports to the Middle East and North Africa increased by 3.6% in 2018 after a sharp drop in 2017.
29. The EECCA subregion produced almost 48 million m³ of sawn softwood in 2018, up by 7.1% over 2017. The Russian Federation made up the majority of this volume.
30. Domestic demand for sawn softwood in the Russian Federation is currently slightly less than 10 million m³ and is expected to increase dramatically to 24.7 million m³ in 2030. Export markets for sawn softwoods from the Russian Federation are expected to grow from

29.8 million m³ in 2018 to more than 37 million m³ in 2030, with China the main destination.

31. Sawn softwood exports from the EECCA amounted to 36.3 million m³ in 2018 (up by 10% from 2017), about 86% of which was provided by the Russian Federation.

32. Demand in North American sawn softwood markets started to slow in the second half of 2018 and barely grew in the first half of 2019, mainly a function of slowing US housing starts. A portion of this was weather-related, with exceptionally cold or wet weather the norm since the fourth quarter of 2018.

33. US sawn softwood output was 59.5 million m³ in 2018, up by 3.2% over 2017. Production gains were highest in the US West (+4.3%), followed by the US South and the Midwest/Northeast regions (both +2.4%). The ongoing depressed prices for standing timber in the US South are a result of excess and unused growing stock. The US South accounts for more than 55% of US production and continues to achieve the highest earnings in North America.

34. Canadian sawn softwood production was 45.2 million m³ in 2018, down by 2.3% from 2017. All regions were hit with antidumping import duties (averaging 20.2%) on shipments to the US, and a slowdown in China's imports started a series of short-term mill curtailments in Canada that were still occurring in the second quarter of 2019.

35. The price of lumber in the US market (as measured by the Random Lengths framing lumber composite price index) peaked in early June 2018 at an all-time high of \$582 per thousand board feet (US\$365 per m³, net count). In the fourth quarter of 2018 and again in the second quarter of 2019, prices fell to well below cost in some regions, to as low as US\$300 per thousand board feet (US\$190 per m³).

36. Canada continues to dominate US imports, with a 91% share in 2018 (25.5 million m³). US imports from Europe soared to 2.0 million m³, up from 1.3 million m³ in 2017, but were lower by almost 10% in the first quarter of 2019 as prices fell. US exports were almost 20% down in the first quarter of 2019, due in part to the China-US trade dispute.

37. The Committee forecasts that production of sawn softwood is expected to increase in the ECE region at an annual rate of 2.3% in 2019 and 1.1% in 2020. The subregional breakdown is as follows: Europe with a gain of 2.0% in 2019 and a decline of 0.3% in 2020; The EECCA is expected to increase 7.2% in 2019 and 4.5% in 2020; and North America will gain 0.3% in 2019 and increase 0.9% in 2020.

C. Sawn hardwood

38. Sawn hardwood consumption and production continue to stagnate in the ECE region, despite relatively good economic conditions in most of the region in 2018.

39. Exports of sawn hardwood outstrip imports in all three ECE subregions, with the region as a whole exporting about double the volume it imports.

40. The sawn hardwood industry faces a number of challenges in the ECE region, including an increasing consumer preference for inexpensive home furnishings and for cabinetry made from composite wood products and non-wood materials (away from traditional hardwood furniture).

41. European hardwood lumber production contracted by 2.0% in 2018, to 14.3 million m³. In the EECCA, sawn hardwood production increased by 10.5%, to 4.2 million m³, and consumption also grew – by 16.0%, to 1.7 million m³. North American sawn hardwood consumption increased by 210,000 m³ (1.0%) in 2018, and production was relatively flat at 24.3 million m³.

42. Asia continues to dominate the tropical sawnwood trade, with China and, to a lesser extent, Thailand and Viet Nam the major importers and Cameroon, Gabon, Malaysia and Thailand the major exporters. World imports of tropical sawnwood increased each year

from a low in 2012 to reach 12.3 million m³ in 2017; the volume declined in 2018, however, to 11.7 million m³.

43. The Committee forecasts that production of sawn hardwood will increase in the ECE region at an annual rate of 2.8% in 2019 and 2.1% in 2020. The subregional breakdown is as follows: Europe is expected to increase by 1.4% in 2019 and remain flat in 2020 (0.0%); the EECCA increases 6.4% in 2019 and 4.1% in 2020; and North America with an expected increase of 3.1% in 2019 and an increase of 3.1% in 2020.

D. Wood-based panels

44. In general, 2018 was mixed for the wood-based panel sector in the ECE region. Strong economic growth in North America and a mild winter in the EECCA helped drive demand for wood-based panels in most end-use applications. Overall, panel production was up by 1.1% in the ECE region and apparent consumption grew by 1.4%. Growth in the wood-based panels sector is projected to continue into 2019, with production expected to increase by 2.1% and apparent consumption by 0.5%.

45. Wood-based panel production was almost unchanged overall in Europe in 2018, at nearly 75 million m³. There was a sizeable (4.8%) drop in plywood production, however, and the production of oriented strandboard (OSB) retracted slightly (by 0.4%). Production increased by 0.4% for fibreboard and by 0.3% for particle board.

46. The apparent consumption of wood-based panels increased by 9.6% in the EECCA in 2018, to 20.3 million m³. Production increased in the subregion by 9.7% in 2018, to 24.9 million m³. The Russian Federation's production of wood-based panels was 17.3 million m³, an increase of 11.2% over 2017.

47. North American demand for structural panels subsector is expected to increase overall by 2.4% in 2019, comprising an increase of 6.2% for OSB and a decrease of 1.6% for plywood. Production capacity in the North American structural panel subsector increased by 2.1% in 2018, to 38.9 million m³.

48. As in previous years, Indonesia and Malaysia were the dominant tropical plywood exporters in 2018, together supplying 73% of world exports.

49. The Committee forecasts that production of wood-based panels will increase in the ECE region at an annual rate of 2.0% in 2019 and by 2.3% in 2020. The subregional breakdown is as follows: Europe will grow 0.4% in 2019 and 0.8% in 2020; the EECCA should increase by 7.3% in 2019 and 7.5% in 2020; and North America is forecast to shrink by 0.3% in 2019 and increase by 0.8% in 2020.

E. Paper, paperboard and woodpulp

50. The global pulp, paper and paperboard industry continued its resurgence in early 2018, driven by a much tighter supply–demand balance for woodpulp and continued strong demand for packaging and sanitary and household products. Prices for virtually all products rose throughout the ECE region in 2018. By the middle of the year, however, signs of stress had begun to appear in Asia (particularly China) and Europe as costs in the pulp and paper segments began to have a negative impact on apparent consumption.

51. The production and apparent consumption of graphic papers continued to decline in virtually every market in 2018 as end users reduced their advertising budgets for print media. The decline in the apparent consumption of graphic papers accelerated in early 2019. This is partially compensated by the increase in packaging materials

52. The apparent consumption of paper and paperboard fell slightly in the ECE region in 2018, with Europe and North America both declining by just over 1% and the EECCA increasing by 2.6%.

53. Paper and paperboard production were flat in Europe, the EECCA had an almost 4% increase, and North America experienced a slight drop. Woodpulp production and

consumption followed similar trends, with a notable increase in the EECCA but almost no change in Europe and North America.

54. A slowdown in China's economic performance in 2018 fuelled by rising costs and trade tensions created price weakness in that country, which spread through economies in the ECE region in late 2018 and persisted to mid-2019.

55. The Committee forecasts that production of paper and paperboard will decline in the ECE region 1.2% in 2019 and by 0.2% in 2020. The subregional breakdown is as follows: Europe declines by 2.0% in 2019 and is flat (0.0%) in 2020; the EECCA is forecast to gain 1.2% in 2019 and 2.0% in 2020; and North America is expected to decrease by 0.7% in both 2019 and 2020.

F. Wood energy

56. Wood energy consumption changed little overall in the ECE region in 2018. The trans-Atlantic trade of wood pellets reached new heights, however, and continues to dominate the international woodfuel trade. A combination of increased demand and slower-than-expected growth in operative production capacity led to higher prices for industrial wood pellets. Policy restrictions in developing Asian pellet markets slowed expectations of trans-Pacific North American pellet trade.

57. Primary energy production derived from solid biofuels in the EU28 was 3,986 PJ in 2017, up by 1.5% from 2016. Total primary energy production from solid biofuels in the EU28 grew by 30.7% in the ten years from 2007 to 2017. Imports comprised 9.4% of total primary energy production from solid biofuels in 2017.

58. European wood-pellet-based power-plant generation capacity exceeded 6,000 MW in 2018 and is forecast to surpass 8,000 MW by 2020. European wood pellet production reached 18.0 million tonnes in 2018, while consumption was 25.4 million tonnes.

59. It was reported that cost, insurance and freight spot prices for industrial wood pellets at Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Antwerp increased steadily in 2018 and through February 2019, with the highest annualized growth (above 50%, year-on-year) in January 2018.

60. European wood pellet imports continue to grow. The volume exceeded 17 million tonnes in 2018, up by 1.9 million tonnes (3.0%) compared with 2017. More than half (by weight) of imports into the EU28 from outside the EU were from the US (60%), followed by Canada (17%) and the Russian Federation (13%).

61. Fuelwood is the primary form of wood energy consumed in the EECCA, where many rural areas lack access to natural gas and other forms of affordable energy. In contrast to traditional fuelwood markets, the production and trade of wood pellets in the EECCA are highly dynamic. Wood pellet production increased by 11.5% in the EECCA in 2018 (to 2.7 million tonnes) and is expected to increase by another 3.8% in 2019. The largest portion of the production (as well as of the increase in production) was in the Russian Federation. Apparent consumption in the EECCA was just 442,000 tonnes in 2018 (less than 20% of EECCA production).

62. The Russian Federation produced 1.8 million tonnes of wood pellets in 2018, 300,000 tonnes of which (about 17%) was sold domestically. The total capacity of all Russian wood pellet plants increased by 3% in 2018, to an estimated 3.6 million tonnes. Most of the pellet enterprises are in the northwest. Siberian wood pellet producers became more active between 2016 and 2018; today, Siberia is the Russian Federation's second-largest pellet-producing region. Production in the Far East has good potential to grow, due primarily to the attractiveness of exports to Asia. The average price (in roubles) increased by 40% in 2018, due to favourable export markets and a weakening rouble.

63. In Canada, the majority of wood energy generated in 2017 was from solid wood waste, including bark and wood-processing residues (12.1 million tonnes) and pulping liquor consumed in recovery boilers (17.9 million tonnes); this is expected to continue through 2018. In the US, residential use is projected to increase after 2018, but overall wood energy consumption is projected to decline by 3.3% between 2018 and 2020.

64. North American wood pellet production reached 10.5 million tonnes in 2018 and is expected to exceed 11 million tonnes in 2019. Additional growth is expected to come from new and restarting operations.

65. Outside the ECE region, the Republic of Korea and Japan have become important in the global wood pellet market, importing 3.5 million tonnes and 1.1 million tonnes of wood pellets, respectively, in 2018.

66. The Committee forecasts that production of wood pellets will increase 5.6% in the ECE region in 2019 and 4.6% in 2020. The subregional breakdown is as follows: Europe increases by 5.4% in 2019 and by 3.0% in 2020; the EECCA is forecast to gain 6.2% in 2019 and 9.5% in 2020; and North America is expected to increase by 5.7% in 2019 and 5.9% in 2020.

G. Value-added wood products

67. The value of global furniture production was estimated at \$470 billion, up by 7% (\$20 billion) from 2017. Globally, the furniture trade has grown more quickly than furniture production in the last ten years. The migration of production to lower-cost regions has not ended, despite challenges such as increased risk and difficulties in sourcing materials.

68. The value of the world furniture trade has grown by 65% in the past ten years, from \$96 billion in 2009 to \$150 billion in 2018. This growth has benefited many emerging economies, led by Poland and Viet Nam. Asia and the Pacific accounts for about 54% of global furniture consumption and the ECE region for 41%. Africa, the Middle East and Latin America together are responsible for only 5% of global furniture consumption.

69. US import markets for builders' joinery and carpentry (BJC) have grown for eight consecutive years. The source of these imports is shifting away from Asian exporters, and Latin American exporters are gaining market share. The three largest importers of BJC in Europe – France, Germany and the UK – obtained most (two-thirds) of their supplies from other European countries in 2017 and 2018. Similarly, Japan sourced about two-thirds of its BJC from Asia.

70. US profiled-wood imports were valued at \$1.4 billion in 2018. For the first time in history, intra-subregional (i.e. Canadian) imports amounted to less than 10% of this value. High-quality South American pruned plantation pine has dominated US softwood moulding imports for decades but, today, China is the second-largest supplier to the US after Brazil. Profiled-wood markets in Europe, which are serviced mainly by other European producers, declined slightly in 2018.

71. Austria is the largest producer of glulam in Europe, at about 1.5 million m³ in 2018. CLT production was about 530,000 m³ in 2018. Italy was the single-largest importer of laminated timber products from Austria in 2018, followed by Germany.

72. The overall production and consumption of North American glulam timber increased year-over-year by 4.5% in 2018, to 467,700 m³. The forecast is for production and consumption to remain steady in 2019 (well below the 2006 production peak of 750,000 m³).

73. North American production and consumption of wooden I-beams fell by 2.8% in 2018, to 233.5 million. The production and consumption of LVL also dropped – by 2.4%, to 2.2 million m³.

74. The use of CLT (often categorized as a mass timber product) continues to grow, both inside the ECE region and in countries outside the region with a tradition of wood construction, such as Australia and Japan. Proponents of the wood industry see great potential for this product in enabling the use of wood in the construction of large and tall structures that previously were the sole domain of steel and concrete.

75. The value of the global CLT market was estimated at \$603 million in 2017, and it is projected to reach \$1.6 billion in 2024.

76. The European subregion leads the world in CLT production, providing about 60% of global production (currently about 700,000 m³), and production in the subregion is forecast to continue increasing into the foreseeable future.

77. In late 2018, ten CLT manufacturing plants were in operation in North America (five in Canada and five in the US), with a combined annual production of about 400,000 m³; two plants were under construction (both in Washington state), with a forecasted production of roughly 185,000 m³; and three more plants had been announced.

78. The Segezha group (Vologda Oblast) has initiated construction of its first CLT plant in the Russian Federation to be completed in the second half of 2020. It is investing almost \$48 million in the plant, which will have a capacity of 50,000 m³ per year of CLT panels.

H. Housing

79. Housing prices have generally performed better than economies in most countries in the ECE region. The Bank of International Settlements (BIS) reported that residential housing prices increased by 1.9% globally in 2018 and by 2.2% in the euro area, 2.0% in the US and 1.0% in the Russian Federation. Canadian house prices retreated, however, by 0.06%. According to BIS, real residential prices (adjusted for inflation) are still substantially higher than in the wake of the global financial crisis.

80. Housing markets continued their growth in 2018, recording a fifth consecutive year of growth. New residential building remains a value driver in the Euroconstruct region⁵ accounting for nearly 25% (€342 billion) of the construction market value, and residential remodelling comprised 26% (€422 billion) of the volume. Combined, new residential and residential remodelling comprised 48% of construction value in 2018. New residential spending has increased by 26% (€72.3 billion) since 2015.

81. The total value of all construction in the Euroconstruct region (residential, non-residential and civil engineering) is projected to increase by 1.9% in 2019, year-on-year (to €1.64 trillion).

82. Residential construction in the Russian Federation declined by 4.6% in 2018 compared with 2017. The estimate for total buildings (residential plus non-residential) declined by 4.8% over 2017. The total new housing put in place in the Russian Federation has averaged 4.5 million m² per year since 1996, but it is projected to reach 5.9 million m² in 2019.

83. The US housing construction market grew moderately in 2018, but total new housing starts remained below the 1959-to-2007 average of 1.547 million total units and 1.102 million single-family units. Housing starts were estimated at 1.250 million in 2018, a 3.9% increase from 2017. Looking forward, the Mortgage Bankers Association projected that US housing starts will be 1.31 million units in 2019, 1.38 million units in 2020 and 1.41 million units in 2021.

84. The number of new Canadian housing starts is projected at 201,000 units in 2019 and 197,000 units in 2020. The slowdown is linked to the perception among financial institutions of rising risk in the Canadian housing market, the primary concerns being affordability, household debt, overbuilding in some provinces, and price acceleration. Nationwide mortgage guidelines, including what is known as the B-20 stress test, have helped stem price acceleration, but there is evidence that implementation of the B-20 has also hindered Canadian housing sales.

85. Housing affordability and availability are problems in Europe, the EECCA and North America, with insufficient new buildings to meet population growth. To many observers, off-site manufacture might enable the building and sale of less-expensive

⁵ The Euroconstruct region comprises 19 countries. The western subregion consists of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. The eastern subregion comprises Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

housing units. Conceptually, modular houses can be built in shorter-time frames, and more houses could potentially be delivered to buyers. Thus, modular construction could offer reduced project completion times and material costs, greater quality control, the mitigation of labour shortages, improved safety, and year-round manufacturing.

Annexe VI

[Anglais seulement]

Rules of Procedure for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

I. Introduction

1. The draft rules of procedure in this document have been prepared in accordance with the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE bodies adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III, appendix III).⁶ In any area not covered in this document, the Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe will be used and, where applicable, the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council, and taking into account the Guidelines on Procedure and Practices for ECE bodies *mutatis mutandis*.

II. Organization of the Committee sessions

2. Sessions of the Committee shall be held regularly once a year. Additional meetings may be convened by the Bureau⁷ in consultation with the secretariat.

3. At its regular sessions, the Committee decides on the dates of the next session. Changes in previously agreed dates of sessions due to unforeseen circumstances can be initiated by the Bureau in consultation with the secretariat.

4. The provisional agenda for the upcoming individual⁸ sessions of the Committee shall be drawn up by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau and shall be circulated to member States at least six weeks⁹ in advance of the meeting.

5. The agenda of the individual sessions of the Committee shall cover, *inter alia*, a review of the implementation of its programme of work, including a review of capacity-building activities, policy-relevant documents developed in the context of the Committee's programme of work, as well as deliberations on future activities in accordance with its Terms of Reference, as contained in document ECE/EX/10.

6. The Bureau shall suggest important substantive issues within the aforementioned Terms of Reference to be addressed during the substantive segment of the sessions.

7. The Committee shall agree on its programme of work, which shall be compatible with the Integrated Programme of Work of the Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission.

III. Representation and accreditation

8. The rules for representation and participation in the Economic Commission for Europe (E/ECE/778/Rev.5)¹⁰ and the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE bodies adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III, appendix III) shall be applied.

⁶ Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III).

⁷ See section IV.

⁸ With individual session is meant a meeting of COFFI not held jointly with EFC.

⁹ Rules of procedures of UNECE, Decision 2010/19, Rule 7.

¹⁰ Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe – Fifth edition (E/ECE/778/Rev.5).

9. Representatives of non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia and other entities whose work is relevant to the forest sector and COFFI, which do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council¹¹, and have informed the secretariat of their desire to be represented at least 20 days in advance of the meeting may be allowed to participate as observers without a right to vote, subject to the approval of the secretariat.

10. The list of participants in the individual Committee's sessions shall be communicated by the secretariat to the Permanent Representations of member States to the United Nations Organizations in Geneva at the latest five working days prior to the starting date of the session.

IV. Officers

11. The Committee shall elect a Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons among individuals nominated by member States of UNECE. The Committee Bureau shall consist of those four officers.¹²

12. The term of office shall be one year. Bureau members can be re-elected for maximum seven additional terms. Efforts shall be made to ensure continuity within the Bureau, as appropriate. The terms of office of elected officials will begin at the end of the session in which they are elected. This will allow the current officers to preside over the session that they have prepared and organized.

13. Candidates for the Bureau of the Committee and other subsidiary bodies shall be nominated by member States based on the person's expertise, professionalism, and expected support from the membership.

14. Geographical balance should be taken into due consideration when examining the candidatures of potential Bureau members.

15. Member States, while making their nomination, shall ensure that candidates or their employers have no contractual agreement with ECE, from which they or their employers may financially benefit, in order to avoid conflicts of interest.

16. The elections for the Bureau will take place in accordance with the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE bodies (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III, appendix III).

17. If the Chairperson is absent from any meetings or part thereof, a Vice-Chairperson shall perform the functions of the Chairperson. If no Vice-Chairperson is present, the Committee shall elect an interim Chairperson for that meeting or that part of the meeting.

18. If the Chairperson can no longer perform the functions of the office, the Bureau of the Committee shall designate one of the Vice-Chairpersons as interim Chairperson to perform those functions pending the election of a new Chairperson by the Committee. The interim Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.

19. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons serve collectively in the interest of all member States of the Committee and not as official representatives of their Governments, and act within the Terms of Reference of the Committee and these Rules of Procedures. The work of the Bureau is carried out in a way that is member driven, consensus-oriented, transparent and accountable.

¹¹ Non-governmental organizations recognized by the Economic and Social Council are covered in document E/ECE/778/Rev.5, which is referred to in paragraph 8.

¹² This is compatible with the membership of the European Forestry Commission Executive Committee as adopted at "Orman2011," the joint session of the Committee and the European Forestry Commission held in Turkey in October 2011 (see ECE/TIM/2011/13-FO:EFC/2011/13 and http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/gsb/Statutes/EFC_RoP.pdf).

V. Functions of the Bureau

20. The key functions of the Bureau are those detailed in the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE bodies (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III, appendix III).
21. In addition to these key functions, Bureau members of the Committee will attend the joint Bureaux meetings with the FAO European Forestry Commission Executive Committee to support the development of the agenda of the joint meetings and discuss matters related to the implementation of the joint integrated Programme of Work.
22. The Bureau shall report to the Committee.

VI. Procedures for the adoption of decisions and Committee meeting reports

23. The Committee shall make all possible efforts to take decisions on the basis of consensus. If voting is used, the Chapter on Voting in the Rules of Procedure of the ECE shall apply.
24. A draft report of the meeting, which reflects in a concise and factual manner the discussion and the views expressed by participants, should be circulated before the end of the meeting for comments and adoption by member States at the end of the meeting.
25. If the draft report cannot be circulated at or adopted during the meeting for technical reasons, the Committee will distribute it to all Geneva Permanent Representations for subsequent approval no later than ten days after the conclusion of the meeting.

VII. Subsidiary bodies

26. The Committee may establish Teams of Specialists or other subsidiary bodies (e.g. Working Parties), in accordance with the existing Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties (ECE/EX/1) and Teams of Specialists within ECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1), in order to fulfil particular objectives in accordance with the terms of reference created for them, subject to approval by the ECE Executive Committee (EXCOM).
27. The terms of reference and reporting procedures of the subsidiary bodies shall be determined by the Committee.

Annex to the Rules of Procedure for the Committee

Decisions taken by COFFI (former Timber Committee) at the joint COFFI-EFC session in Antalya, Turkey in 2011 on the composition of its Bureau

1. At the end of each session, the Committee will elect a Chair and three Vice-Chairs from among the representatives to the Committee. Elected officials will remain in office until a new Chair and Vice-Chairs are elected at the following session. The outgoing Chair and Vice-Chairs will be eligible for re-election, and the office of Chair will not normally be held for more than two consecutive periods by the representative of the same member State.
2. In practice, Bureau members will continue to be elected for a one-year term, with the possibility of being re-elected. The current practice of re-electing Bureau members for a second term will be maintained. For continuity, the outgoing Chair could remain in the Bureau as Vice-Chair. The longer-serving Vice-Chair who had not already served as Chair would normally be expected to be elected as Chair. The practice outlined here would be subject to the availability of the candidate and could be modified upon the agreement of member States.

3. This practice would allow the Committee to elect a Chair to remain in that function for two consecutive years, as it is the current practice, or to step down from the function after one term. As elections are held every year, this means that the minimum term to be served by one member is one year, with eight being the maximum.

Annexe VII

[Anglais seulement]

Recommendations of the European Forestry Commission

A. Recommendations of the European Forestry Commission for the attention of the FAO Committee on Forestry (issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)

<i>Priority issues for COFO to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information/discussion/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Commission</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors, appropriate follow-up actions including a plan to mainstream biodiversity in the forest sector and contributions to the post-2020 biodiversity framework	Discussion/decision	Development of policy recommendations and programme elements for the PWB	EFC	APFC, NAFC
FRA: findings and ways forward, including development of forest information systems and application of new technologies as well as further work on GCS	Discussion/decision	Development of policy recommendations and programme elements for the PWB	EFC	NAFC
Discuss collaboration with UNFF including organizing possible regional events highlighting the contribution of RFCs and other UNFF regional and sub-regional partners during technical sessions;	Discussion/decision	Development of policy recommendations	EFC	

<i>Priority issues for COFO to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information/discussion/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Commission</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
Climate change: Follow-up to the UN Climate Action Summit and COP25	Discussion/decision	Development of policy recommendations and programme elements for the PWB	EFC	APFC, LACFC
Strengthen regional collaboration on forest fires	Discussion/decision	Development of policy recommendations and programme elements for the PWB	EFC	LACFC, NAFC

B. Recommendations of the European Forestry Commission for the attention of the Regional Conference for Europe

<i>Priority issues for the Regional Conference for Europe to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information/discussion/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for FAO</i>
Consider report of EFC40	Discussion/decision by ERC	
Collaboration on integrated landscape approaches with agriculture, forestry, fisheries, water and energy based on a nexus approach, at all levels	Discussion/decision	
Discuss approaches to invasive species in food and agriculture and forestry	Information/Discussion	
UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – emerging opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration (including with ECA)	Information/Decision	

C. RFC recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (H, M, L, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (subregional/regional/global)</i>	<i>Global Forest Goals</i>	<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>
Global and regional context: ECE and FAO, within their existing mandates, to:					
1. Continue to support countries in the implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda as they relate to forests, and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030;		Continued	Global, regional	Goal 1- Goal 6	SO1 - SO5
2. Update member States and other stakeholders on the forest-related global and regional policy developments, to contribute to the achievement of SDGs and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 implementation and review process; and		Continued	Global, regional	Goal 1- Goal 6	SO1 - SO5
3. Continue forest monitoring and outlook work in the region.		Continued	Regional	Goal 1- Goal 6	SO2 - SO4
Follow-up to the decisions of the thirty-ninth session of the European Forestry Commission: FAO to continue to work on:					
4. Invasive species and on how to mitigate the impacts of bark beetles in the region;		Continued	regional	Goal 1	SO2, SO5
5. Climate change adaptation and resilience;		Continued	Global, regional	Goal 1	SO2, SO5
6. Forest monitoring and reporting including the Global Core Set of Forest-Related Indicators and on terminology and definitions of degradation; and		Continued	Global, regional	Goal 1	SO2, SO5
7. Public-private sector partnerships, in particular in restoration		New	Global, regional	Goal 1, Goal 4	SO2, SO4
8. Provide more frequent updates on changes in forest area and land use as part of the FRA programme		Continued	Global, regional	Goal 1, Goal 6	SO2, SO5

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (H, M, L, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (subregional/ regional/global)</i>	<i>Global Forest Goals</i>	<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>
<u>Presentation of forestry activities of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia:</u>					
FAO to:					
9. Continue to incorporate integrated landscape approaches in operational forestry work in the region, taking full account of the multi-functional roles of forests;		Continued	Regional	Goal 1	SO2, SO4
10. Continue to support natural resource management (including forests) through the strengthening of national policies, financing, provisioning of incentives, establishing taxation and governance frameworks and measures, including regulations, standards and monitoring for forest management interventions and practices, and support capacity development in this regard;		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 4 Goal 5	SO2, SO4
11. Continue to support the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS) and its activities, in particular in organising topical trainings on emerging invasive species and seeking synergies with other relevant organisations such as Forest Europe;		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 5	SO2, SO5
12. Strengthen regional cooperation on forest fires		New	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 6	SO2, SO5
<u>Progress of Silva Mediterranea:</u> FAO to:					
13. Explore ways and means to develop and implement the project ‘MedForYouth-Empowering Young Entrepreneurs around the Mediterranean’		New	Regional	Goal 5 Goal 6	SO2, SO4
<u>Panel discussion: Emerging invasive species risk to European forests:</u> FAO to:					
14. Continue supporting the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia and the implementation of its activities;		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 6	SO2, SO5
15. Support cross-sectoral forest protection measures to contribute to biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation.		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 3 Goal 6	SO2, SO5

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (H, M, L, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (subregional/regional/global)</i>	<i>Global Forest Goals</i>	<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>
<u>FAO's work on biodiversity:</u> FAO to:					
16. Initiate, upon the adoption of the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors, appropriate follow-up actions including a plan to mainstream biodiversity in the forest sector, and report on progress made at the next appropriate session;		New	Global, Regional	Goal 3 Goal 5	SO2, SO4
17. Continue to report on forest-relevant work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources and the preparation of The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, to the Regional Forestry Commissions.		Continued	Global, Regional,	Goal 3 Goal 5 Goal 6	SO2, SO4
<u>The role of sustainable wood value chains in achieving the SDGs:</u> FAO to:					
18. Support country efforts in the region to assess and harness the main contributions of sustainable wood value chains to the SDGs and climate change, as well as engendering and strengthening wood-based bio-economy at national level;		New	Global, Regional	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 6	SO2, SO4, SO5
19. Seek further cooperation with regional partners to build capacities to strengthen sustainable wood value chains and their contributions to the advance sustainable forest management, achieve sustainable landscapes and climate change objectives, including in relation to the Decade of Family Farming and the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; and		New	Global, Regional	Goal 5 Goal 6	SO2, SO4, SO5
20. Engage with the public and private sectors to improve the public perception of sustainable wood products, emphasizing the benefits of sustainable wood value chains and pointing out the differences between sustainable and unsustainable wood products		New	Global, Regional	Goal 4 Goal 5 Goal 6	SO2, SO4, SO5
<u>Global processes:</u> FAO to:					
21. Continue contributing to the Global Climate Action Agenda and to promote forest related initiatives, projects and programmes as well as support countries in the development of their forest and other land use related proposals for the Green Climate Fund;		Continued	All	Goal 1 - Goal 6	SO2, SO5
22. Explore ways and means to help further enhance the forest sector's contribution to post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to highlight the importance of the local context;		Continued	All	Goal 1 - Goal 6	SO2, SO5
23. Further promote urban forestry activities;		Continued	All	Goal 1 - Goal 6	SO2, SO5

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (H, M, L, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (subregional/regional/global)</i>	<i>Global Forest Goals</i>	<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>
24. Take an active part in the UN Decade on Family Farming and scale up its support to forest and farm producer organizations through the Forest and Farm Facility;		Continued	All	Goal 1 - Goal 6	SO2, SO5
25. Inform COFO on plans for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;		Continued	All	Goal 1 - Goal 6	SO2, SO5
26. Support the implementation of the priorities listed in the EU communication ‘Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests’.				Goal 1 - Goal 6	
<u>Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and collaboration with UNFF, beyond WIPoW:</u> FAO to:					
27. Continue supporting the implementation of the UNSPF;		Continued	Global, Regional	Goal 1 - Goal 6	SO2, SO4, SO5
28. Work with UNFF secretariat to explore opportunities for organising regional events during technical sessions of the Forum aiming at enhancing global-regional interaction and highlighting the contribution of regional forestry commissions and other UNFF regional and sub-regional partners to the implementation of the UNSPF and the achievement of the Global Forest Goals		Continued	Global, Regional	Goal 5 Goal 6	SO2, SO4, SO5
29. Continue its leadership role in the CPF		Continued	Global, Regional	Goal 6	SO2, SO4, SO5
<u>Preparations for RCE 32 and COFO 25 and for the XV World Forestry Congress (FAO governance):</u> FAO to:					
30. Developed its recommendations for the Regional Conference for Europe, COFO and the programme priorities and requested the secretariat to translate these into the template as contained in Annex VII and share them with other Commissions as well as the secretariats of the Regional Conference and COFO; and		Continued	All	Goal 5 Goal 6	SO1 - SO5
31. Invited the Chairperson of the Regional Conference for Europe to give adequate attention to the recommendations of the Commission in the agenda of the Conference		Continued	Regional	Goal 5 Goal 6	SO1 - SO5

Annexe VIII

[Anglais seulement]

Transcript of the recording¹³ of agenda item 5k) Election of officers, date and place of next meeting; Thursday 7 November 2019, (between 15:34 and 16:12)

Recording time marker: 00:26:19

EFC Chair: Thank you colleagues for your contribution. Now, we are moving to the next agenda item which is 5k) "election of officer, date and place of the next meeting". For the moment we have indication of ... we have the current situation of the Executive Committee, we have two seats becoming available. One for replacing Rob Busink from the Netherland[s] and one for replacing Kenan Kilic from Turkey. So, we have one country from the European Union and one for a non-European Union country. And we received five indication[s] of interest by member[s] of European Forestry Commission to present themselves for the Executive Committee. We have, we received indication from Italy, from Finland, from Switzerland and from Uzbekistan, this means

EFC Secretariat: You said five, indeed four.

EFC Chair: Four, I am tired apologize I have to be more concentrated with this, four, this was the reason I was looking, I no, apologize: four. So, Italy, Finland, Uzbekistan and Switzerland. So, in this case if we have four candidates for two seats, we will need to make an election and before this election we will have to see if we have the quorum enabling us for voting. So, this is the first step we have to tackle, for that reason I would like to help to ask Ekrem to help me in seeing if we have this quorum.

EFC Secretariat: Thank you very much Madame Chair, maybe yeah, maybe you get reaction from the floor then we continue.

EFC Chair: Yes

Finland: Chair, just asking the floor before we go to quorum, I think, are all the candidates eligible for choosing, that's my question because it would it be useful to know who are the candidates and whether they are eligible or not before we [proceed] I mean.

EFC Secretariat: Heikki you are the candidate from yourself Finland, am I right?

Finland: We have communicated, that is what we have communicated to the secretariat of the committee, yes.

EFC Chair: Here is the list of candidates: we have for Switzerland: Keith Anderson, we have for Finland: Heikki Granholm, for Italy: Enrico Pompei, we have for Uzbekistan: Mr. Abduvokhid Zakhadullaev. Is this responding to your question, yeah?

EFC Secretariat: If you agree I will read the names of countries, the member of European Forestry Commission members in alphabetic order to check quorum and whether to represent officially their governments.

EFC Chair: again

Finland: I am terribly sorry I come back, but I asked two questions: who are the candidates? And that led to my second question, that was: are those candidates eligible or not? So, when we read the rules of procedure the candidate, if they are not in in the meeting room my questions is: are those candidates registered to the meeting and therefore can they be eligible for election?

¹³ Full audio recording: <https://conf.unog.ch/digitalrecordings/#>

EFC Chair: Yes, the rules you are referring to.

Finland: Well, maybe it would be right that the secretariat of the Committee [Commission] refers to the rules, but I am just referring to the rules of the European Forestry Commission.

EFC Secretariat: There was one case I mean in especially in case of Turkey that we elect one member while he was not present in the session, so there is no rules but if you like to know about the, you know, the rules that was the case.

Finland: To my reading that is: “the Commission shall elect a chairman and three vice chairmen from among the representatives of the Commission at the end of each session” so it means in my reading of the rules of procedure there is such a rule vis-à-vis what you said mister secretary of the Commission. So, my reading is that you select, elect bureau members among the representatives to the Commission and my questions was whether all these four candidates are representatives to the Commission at this session or not.

EFC Secretariat: Can I reply - Mette?

FAO, Mette Wilkie: I am happy to go back to our legal office to get a legal opinion on that, my reading of this is that it is representatives to the Commission whether they’d be at the current meeting or not, but I can go back to our legal office and find out if they have a different interpretation of that part.

EFC Chair: Yes, please.

Finland: Thank you, I think that was in the rule II of the Rules of Procedure, may I draw your attention to the rule I of the same rules of procedure, I think that would be quite useful if there has been a practice which is not in accordance with the rules I think that is one mistake if there is a mistake you may not have to repeat it a second time. So it seems to me that according to the rule I paragraph 2: “each member of the Commission shall communicate to the Director General of the organization the name of its representatives before the opening of each session of the Commission” and then the paragraph 3 continues “that the Commission shall elect one chairman and three vice-chairmen among the representatives to the Commissions” so to my reading it is very clear that you communicate who is the representative and then you chose among those representatives, to me that is quite crystal-clear. Thank you.

EFC Secretariat: I mean we need to get the legal advice, we need to wait but yeah you are right whatever happened, if it was not really in accordance with the rules we shouldn’t practice again, but that I mean happened in the past that is what I can tell you. But we need to get legal advice about the question that you raised, Heikki.

[Pause]

FAO, Mette Wilkie: Just to confirm, I have consulted with our legal office in FAO. And he confirms, they do not need to be present in the room. We have had quite a liberal interpretation of the rules also in terms of accreditation. As you know we have not requested, or we have not often received official accreditation letters for people coming to our Commission meetings, it has been enough that they are registered. If you had a Convention, we would have required that you have an accreditation in which case that would also be the basis for whether or not we have a quorum for a vote. So, the answer from our legal office is that there has been a tradition in the past as well that the way this has been interpreted is that people do not need to be in the room to be elected or eligible.

EFC Chair: Switzerland or not? No.

Switzerland: My question was basically covered by the second question that Finland was asking and ehm particularly because I didn’t get the name from the candidate from Italy, if you would mind repeating that? And I think to make more precise, I understood Finland’s intervention just now, to be asking about rule I paragraph 2, if in fact the member was communicated to the Director General, the name of the representative of Italy before this session. I think that was the question.

EFC Secretariat: Regarding para second it is a bit difficult question, but for this session none of the countries communicated their candidate with FAO, if we start to question that one, it is a bit, you know we didn’t get any nomination. In the past I got only four, five for

each session, but this time I didn't get any official communication, although it was requested in the letter.

Norway: This is just a personal request, I will have to leave now because of my plane. But I would very much like to cast a vote and I feel this is dragging out, is it possible to mandate a representative to take my vote?

FAO, Nabil Gangi: Madame la President, thank you for giving me the word, I am the secretary of the Regional Conference for Europe, may I request that a quorum checking be taken first by calling the names after which we can see whether elections can proceed or not. I think this is the appropriate approach for any conferences, elections or voting procedures. Thank you.

EFC Chair: Thank you very much for your advice. This is what we will do immediately.

EFC Secretariat: OK thank you very much. So, I will go EFC members in an alphabetic order, I will read the names to check whether they are present or not. Let me start: Albania – no; Austria- yes; Belarus- no; Belgium-yes; Bulgaria- no; Croatia-no; Cyprus-no; Czechia- yes; Denmark- no; Estonia-yes; Finland-yes; France- yes; Germany-yes; Greece-no; Hungary-no; Iceland-no; Ireland-no; Israel-no; Italy-yes; Latvia-no; Lithuania-no; Luxemburg- no; Malta- no; Netherlands- here; North Macedonia-no; Norway-yes; Poland-yes; Portugal-no; Romania-no; Russian Federation-yes; Slovakia-yes; Slovenia-no; Spain-no; Sweden-yes; Switzerland-yes; Turkey-yes; Ukraine-yes; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland- no; Uzbekistan- yes. According to our note and calculation 18 members are present here out of 39 plus EU. So, quorum, it is not fulfilled.

EFC Chair: What does this mean concretely? Is that the current Executive Committee will still be in place and will be replaced in the next session of the European Forestry Commission, that could be an extraordinary one specifically implemented for that, for this election an option can be that the delegates, members of the European Forestry Commission ask the secretariat to organize this new election as soon as possible.

Finland: I find this quite, well of course disappointing that we are not able to agree, it is not because we had a candidate. I think it would be useful to move forward on this. Why I believe this is extremely extraordinary that secretariat first the secretary of the Committee [Commission], he said that we have not been following the rule, then we heard from the lawyer of the FAO also indicating that we do not need to follow the rule and now we started to do the counting of quorum on request of the Chair and the secretary of the Committee [Commission], so my question is that why do you in the podium bring up the quorum rule, but not to follow other rules. I find it little bit difficult to this procedure that we have been followed if this is the case I request that these explanations by the Chair and FAO will be duly recorded in the meeting report and the proceedings of these discussion will be well captured. But before that I asked a question that nobody challenge the issue of quorum in my understanding where the members to the COFFI body were discussed, but now the quorum discussion was taken forward by the secretary and the Chair. I am a little bit surprised that because of this we are not able to agree on the bureau members, executive committee members. Can I have the explanation on why did we follow the rules in certain parts but not in other parts?

FAO, Nabil Gangi: Thank you Madame le President, two issues the Commission could convene regardless of how many members are there, the general rules regarding the quorum pertain to the voting, so any issues on voting is where the quorum aspects are invoked, and the quorum aspects is basically the half plus one of the member states. On the second subject, at no point has the legal council indicated that we have broken the rules, the legal council has explicitly said that the interpretation of the rules has been that members could be elected, could be eligible for election, even if they are not in the meeting hall during the election procedure. So, this is an interpretation of the rule and not a breaking of the rule thank you Madame Chair.

FAO, Mette Wilkie: To add to that, the COFFI rules might be slightly different from the European Forestry Commission, here we are following the rules and procedures of the European Forestry Commission and it also says that in addition to the above rules, and that's on the voting and procedures, the provision of rule 12 shall apply mutatis mutandis.

And those rules, the general rules of the FAO, very clearly specify how this should be conducted and what constitute a quorum. We'd be happy to make all of that information available to all of those who are here today.

EFC Chair: I would like to share with you the rule 12b). Telling us precisely before proceedings to a vote or election the chairperson shall announce the number of delegates or representatives present if less than the number required for a quorum is present the vote or election or shall not be held.

Recording time marker 00:49:45

Switzerland: Having been present in the COFFI vote, the quorum issue was not brought up actually. There was just a vote, cast. So, we don't know actually if there was quorum. Maybe the secretary did that work, but it was not publicly subject made by the chairs. Also, we do think it would be very useful to have a record of this in the official report of the session and also what is the way forward, what are the suggested ways forward, are we thinking of having an extraordinary session where an election takes places, where quorum is resolved? Or are we thinking is it possible by mail? And what exactly are also the chances of each of the candidates to present their case and their country's case as they did in the COFFI election? Thank you.

FAO, Mette Wilkie: As was mentioned earlier by the Chair, we can have an extraordinary session. It could be in connection with COFO or with another meeting. It could also be delegation to the Permanent Representatives in Rome. That's what we did with some of the discussions that we had on the IPC. By mail I don't think it is possible, because it does say that it has to be by members that are present during the session, but I will refer that to our legal office as well if need be.

EFC Chair: At that point delegates should indicate us if we have to wait for the next EFC session or if there is an intention in the room to try to have it as early as possible. You should indicate us, what is your wish on that. Yes, Finland.

Finland: I think there are a number of, I think I am not completely satisfied with the explanation still from the FAO side. I mean that, I understand that the lawyer said that the person does not need to be in the room to be elected. I take that one. It may be that he or she is in the break, in the bathroom or something. But in regard that to me it is extremely clear the rules of procedures of this Commission. Rule number I paragraph 2 and the Rule number II paragraph 1, that you have to be, that the chair person and the vice-chairmen shall be elected among representatives to the Commission. And the representative of the Commission is communicated to the Director General before the session. So, in this regard, it's different that whether you are in the room or not. The question is that whether you are representative or not. And that was my question. I still have not been answered whether all these four candidates are representatives to the Commission at this session. In my understanding, we have been shared the list of participants and I have noted that at least one of the candidates has not been mentioned in the list of participants which in my understanding means that that person is not the representative of in this Commission for the time being. So, can you confirm that all nominees have been registered as a representative or have they not. And if not, how many delegates it leaves us to be chosen.

FAO, Mette Wilkie: I can only confirm that no, none of the parties to the EFC sent a nomination or a delegation to the Director General as requested in Rule number I. So normally, we would ask for a accreditation letter from the government saying this is the person that will represent our government at this meeting. We did, received no such letters from any of the members of this Commission.

EFC Chair: Finland.

Finland: I think at least my delegation have registered to the COFFI and to the 40th session of EFC through the, according to the instructions that we have been provided electronically. And at least I can assure you that my registration has been accepted. So, in my reading people who have been registered through electronic means to the EFC should be considered as a representative to the Commission. If not a single person in this room has sent the formal registration to Director General, then what are we doing here? None of us, we are

attending the EFC, so EFC cannot take any decision. There should be the blank sheet out of this meeting, because nobody is present, in your explanation.

FAO, Nabil Gangi: Thank you, Madame, la Presidente. I believe the registration system has taken over from the procedure letter to the Director General. The question that was posed by the esteemed member was whether the, who has submitted letters to the Director General, and I think rightly my colleague has answered that none has submitted letters to the Director General. Nevertheless, the registration system in the current approach basically takes over. And hence, the secretary in his wisdom should have been able to present who has been registered and accordingly who is being represented to this Commission meeting. Having said that again, this has no bearing relating to the holding of the meeting and the quorum aspects only pertain to the general rules of FAO, not of the UNECE, but they are the general rules of FAO relating to holding voting or elections whereby the quorum constitutes half of those registered plus one. Thank you, Madame, la Presidente.

EFC Chair: So, I have to repeat my question: Do you want to see the same Executive Committee active until the next EFC session or do you want to see an extraordinary session of EFC for the election of the new Executive Committee. We need an input from your side on that. If not, it will be at the next EFC session in 2021.

Finland: [no microphone...] to the way forward. But I think the first one is this is truly recorded in the, what we have requested, that's the first one to kept that documented, the, my understanding that there are three options actually on the table. One is that we suspend the 40th session of the European Forestry Commission and then we would be able to continue at appropriate place and time at the later stage, that would be the one way. The other one is that like you said that the current Executive Committee members would continue and then of course for the next two years and then there is a possibility to have the extraordinary meeting on this regard. So, I think in my understanding there is a possibility also to suspend the meeting and then at the appropriate time we could come back to that. Thank you. But anyway, I think it would be useful to move forward at this session. Our preference would be that certain unclarity on the situation would be tried to be solved as soon as possible. I think that would be the benefit to this process. That would be our preference. Thank you.

EFC Chair: [no microphone...] for receiving more precise information on the rules. In case of no quorum, the vote or election shall not be held. It is not a question of be suspended, it shall not be held. Please, Switzerland.

Switzerland: Yes, to maybe respond to you, made several suggestions of where we might be able to make the next vote and one was the possibility of the COFO next year, another one would be even earlier, possibly with Permanent Missions in Rome. In order to consult these and the preference of Switzerland, I would have to take this back though. So I am afraid, some kind of solution on the lines of what Finland's first option was might be a temporary suspension until the agenda can be finished or also the, I think there was also an offer to, or a request to have the proceedings of this session, this particular part recorded and we would only make a request that that is done in the spirit of total neutrality on part of the Chairs. As a candidate, I have felt pressure from different sides, and this has been for me in stark contrast with the COFFI election that was just the day before. So we would really request that in the framing of this, we are not mentioning already what preferences might be the eventual outcome of the election rather than also giving candidates a chance to circulate the interest of their country and who their candidate is, finally, officially, before perhaps for us, I think, the COFO would be an interesting solution maybe, which would give us time and how we would then deal with ongoing work and the consolation of leadership right now, that's probably more a technical matter. So, we would welcome your guidance on that.

Recording time marker 01:01:30

FAO, Mette Wilkie: In terms of recording this, certainly we will. We can ask the secretariat to do so, take recordings of matters and how it was discussed today. In terms of moving forward, as we said we have 2 options either we stick with the existing members until the next meeting which is in 2 years time or we request the secretariat to explore options for having another vote as the most appropriate point in time or as soon as possible, so we can

put that request forward. It can then be had can then either at COFO or if you express that interest or wish to have it even further see how we can do it with the permanent representatives. In terms of the clarity of what goes forward, it is clear here that if there is no election on the membership, then the membership continues until the next session or until such an election has been held.

FAO, Nabil Gangi: Thank you Madame le President, once again just to append to my colleagues' statement, as secretary of the Regional Conference, we would be happy to host any extraordinary meeting of the Commission during the Regional Conference to be held in May 2020, should the esteemed members wish to do so.

Ukraine: Thank you Madame Chair. I also would like to draw the attention to my colleagues that if we chose an option that we have the elections next session then we broke other rules of procedure because people will be in office more than 8 years. So, if we can't do elections right now our preference will be to request secretariat to find a solution as soon as possible, preferably before the new year to take opportunity for new members of the executive committee to take their role in all necessary meeting preparations.

EFC Chair: Finland.

Finland: I could easily support the Ukrainian proposal, if there is a possibility to find a solution before the end of the year that would be our preference, of course by the permanent representatives for instance in Rome we are happy to work in that regard. Alternatively, if it has to go for the next year, maybe the Working Party would be, actually that we could have it back-to-back here in Geneva. Working Party in my understanding is scheduled, is it March? So, we could have the extraordinary meeting or suspended meeting of the EFC to be continued at that, 1 hour or something like that, it might be useful that one, thank you.

FAO, Mette Wilkie: Certainly, a possibility to also have an extraordinary meeting of EFC, absolutely. I will not go into details, but suspension is not an issue here. We have an election, we have decided that we don't have the quorum for the election, we can still complete the meeting as it was scheduled and, in the agenda, even though there is no election, so there is no question about the need for suspension of this session. But we can certainly set an extraordinary meeting up, either before the end of this year in Rome, or in connection with another meeting where we think we will have a quorum of the members of this Commission.

EFC Chair: So, I think we can close in such a way this agenda item.

Time Marker: 01:05:55
