

**Экономический
и Социальный Совет**

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**Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация****Европейская экономическая
комиссия****Комитет по лесам и лесной отрасли**

Семьдесят седьмая сессия

Женева, 4–7 ноября 2019 года

Пункт 6 предварительной повестки дня

Утверждение доклада о работе совместной
сессии и ее закрытие

**Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация****Европейская комиссия по лесному хозяйству**

Сороковая сессия

Женева, 4–7 ноября 2019 года

**Доклад о работе совместной сессии Комитета по лесам
и лесной отрасли Европейской экономической комиссии
(семьдесят седьмая сессия) и Европейской комиссии
по лесному хозяйству Продовольственной
и сельскохозяйственной организации (сороковая сессия)****I. Введение**

1. Совместная сессия Комитета ЕЭК по лесам и лесной отрасли (семьдесят седьмая сессия) и Европейской комиссии ФАО по лесному хозяйству (сороковая сессия), «Форэ–2019», состоялась в Женеве, Швейцария, с 4 по 7 ноября 2019 года. В сессии приняли участие более 180 экспертов. К совместной сессии были приурочены торжественные мероприятия по случаю пятой Недели европейских лесов, которые проводились на тему «Леса и циркуляционная экономика».

2. Дополнительная информация, документы для заседающих органов и тексты выступлений размещены на веб-странице сессии. Содержание и выводы вышеуказанных выступлений в настоящем докладе не излагаются, с ними можно ознакомиться на веб-странице сессии¹.

II. Участники

3. В работе совместной сессии приняли участие делегации следующих 28 государств-членов: Австрии, Армении, Беларуси, Бельгии, Германии, Грузии, Ирландии, Италии, Казахстана, Канады, Кыргызстана, Нидерландов, Норвегии, Польши, Российской Федерации, Сербии, Словакии, Соединенных Штатов Америки, Таджикистана, Турции, Узбекистана, Украины, Финляндии, Франции, Чешской Республики, Швейцарии, Швеции, Эстонии.

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



4. В работе сессии приняло участие следующее государство, не являющееся членом ЕЭК: Новая Зеландия.
5. В работе сессии приняли участие представители Форума Организации Объединенных Наций по лесам (ФООНЛ), Программы развития Организации Объединенных Наций (ПРООН), Программы Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде (ЮНЕП), Международной организации труда (МОТ) и Всемирного банка.
6. В работе совместной сессии также участвовали представители Европейского союза.
7. В работе сессии участвовали представители Комитета «Silva Mediterranea» и процесса «Леса Европы».
8. Для участия в сессии зарегистрировались следующие неправительственные организации: Ассоциация защиты прав фермеров (АЗПФ), Центр окружающей среды имени Акопяна Американского университета Армении, Центр европейских политических исследований (ЦЕПИ), Лесотехническая палата Турции, компания «Довтейл партнерс», Европейский лесной институт, Европейская организация лесопильной промышленности, Европейская федерация производителей листовых древесных материалов, Европейской ассоциации государственных лесных организаций (ЕАГЛО), Ассоциация лесохозяйственных организаций Финляндии, Лесной попечительский совет (ЛПС) – Европа, Международный комитет Красного Креста (МККК), «ИФЦВ Импульсстифтунг Цвиккау», Германия, Институт леса, Международная ассоциация студентов лесохозяйственных институтов (МАСЛИ), Международный институт устойчивого развития, «MyForestArmenia», Группа Саммита ГС ООН «Основанные на природных принципах решения», НПО «Экосфера», «Оидел», организация «Независимая экологическая экспертиза», «Планта Панта три интернешнл» (ППТИ), организации «Пронаттура»/«Друзья земли», Швейцария, Программа одобрения систем сертификации лесов (ПОСЛ), организации «Деревья Квебека», Квебекское бюро по экспорту древесины, Программы «Устойчивое лесное хозяйство» (ПУЛХ) Инк, Союз европейских лесоводов (СЕЛ), Союз лесопромышленников и лесоэкспортеров России, Программа «Ууси пуу – Нью вуд», Вуппертальский институт климата, организация «Окружающая среда и энергетика», экологическая сеть «Зои». По приглашению секретариата на сессии присутствовали представители ряда других организаций, частного сектора, местных структур, научных кругов и средств массовой информации.

III. Открытие сессии

9. Г-жа Ольга Альгаерова, Исполнительный секретарь ЕЭК, выступая от имени Европейской экономической комиссии, открыла пятую Неделю европейских лесов и совместную сессии «Форэ–2019». Она рассказала о предстоящих мероприятиях и отметила, что намеченные обсуждения представляют собой уникальную возможность для изучения ключевых изменений в лесной политике и обмена идеями по вопросам, касающимся циркуляционной экономики.
10. Г-н Владимир Рахманин, помощник Генерального директора ФАО, приветствовал делегатов от имени Продовольственной и сельскохозяйственной организации Объединенных Наций и подчеркнул неизменную приверженность ФАО делу поддержки всех усилий, направленных на обеспечение устойчивого управления лесами и другими природными ресурсами в регионе.
11. Г-н Гай Робертсон (Соединенные Штаты Америки), Председатель Комитета и сопредседатель сессии, открыл сессию и приветствовал участников от имени Комитета.
12. Г-жа Кристин Фарси (Бельгия), Председатель Комиссии и сопредседатель сессии, приветствовала участников от имени Комиссии.

13. Г-н Бен Гуннеберг, Исполнительный директор и Генеральный секретарь ПОСЛ, приветствовал участников выставки «Леса и циркуляционная экономика – мир без пластмассы», на которой были представлены последние инновации в области деревообработки. Он провел участников по выставке и дал разъяснения в связи с некоторыми экспонатами.

14. Г-жа Эвелиина Покела, Исполнительный директор Программы «Ууси пуу – Нью вуд», рассказала о своей роли в организации выставки и провела участников по оставшейся части экспозиции.

IV. Утверждение повестки дня (Пункт 1 повестки дня)

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/1; FO:EFC/2019/1

15. Участники утвердили представленную предварительную повестку дня.

V. Леса и циркуляционная экономика (Пункт 2 повестки дня)

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/3; FO:EFC/2019/3

16. Г-н Василейос Ризос, научный сотрудник и руководитель отдела устойчивых ресурсов и циркуляционной экономики Центра европейских политических исследований, выступил с основным докладом, посвященным концепции циркуляционной экономики и ее процессам.

17. Г-н Карлос Мартин Новелла, заместитель Исполнительного секретаря в секретариате Базельской, Роттердамской и Стокгольмской конвенций, рассказал о проводимой по линии этих конвенций работе, касающейся отходов и химических веществ в рамках циркуляционной экономики в лесном секторе.

18. Г-жа Паола Агостини, ведущий экономист-эколог Всемирного банка, рассказала о работе Всемирного банка по вопросам циркуляционной экономики и ее связи с лесным сектором.

19. Г-н Луи Рошартр, директор, Группа «Лесохозяйственные решения», Всемирный совет деловых кругов за устойчивое развитие, рассказал о работе частного сектора по вопросам циркуляционной экономики.

20. Г-н Исмаил Белен, член Лесотехнической палаты Турции, рассказал о применяемой в Турции практике лесозаготовок с низким уровнем воздействия на окружающую среду.

21. Г-жа Ханна Каллиомяки, председатель Программы «Ууси пуу – Нью вуд», Финляндия, рассказала о том, как инновационная продукция может изменить нашу повседневную жизнь в условиях циркуляционной экономики.

22. Приглашенные эксперты обсудили возможности и проблемы, возникающие в связи с применением практики циркуляционной экономики в лесном секторе, а также имеющиеся на международном уровне инициативы и инструменты, которые могли бы способствовать переходу к циркуляционной экономике.

23. Секретариат представил документ ECE/TIM/2019/3–FO:EFC/2019/3, «Женевское видение развития циркуляционной экономики в лесном секторе», и возможные направления работы.

24. Сопредседатели учредили контактную группу во главе с представителем Канады для обсуждения проекта «Женевского видения» и подготовки проекта соответствующего решения для рассмотрения Комитетом и Комиссией.

VI. Общие вопросы, касающиеся Комитета и Комиссии (Пункт 3 повестки дня)

A. Рассмотрение рекомендаций по пункту 2 повестки дня «Леса и циркуляционная экономика»

25. Комитет и Комиссия рассмотрели вопрос об актуальности концепций циркуляционной экономики в привязке к лесному сектору.

26. Комитет и Комиссия предложили ЕЭК и ФАО, с учетом дискуссий, состоявшихся в ходе совместной сессии, проводить через Совместную секцию лесного хозяйства и лесоматериалов ЕЭК/ФАО соответствующие мероприятия с элементами исследований и анализа, а также подготовки предложений в отношении руководящих указаний и рекомендаций для государств-членов.

27. Было подчеркнуто, что в рамках реализации этих усилий очень важно работать со всеми соответствующими заинтересованными сторонами.

B. Вопросы глобальной и региональной политики, касающейся лесов

28. Секретариат представил информацию по ряду вопросов глобальной и региональной политики, в частности об осуществлении Стратегического плана ООН по лесам на 2017–2030 годы, Политическом форуме высокого уровня по устойчивому развитию, ходе представления данных для глобальной оценки лесных ресурсов 2020 года, перспективном исследовании по лесному сектору и национальных диалогах по вопросам лесной политики в Азербайджане, Казахстане и Украине.

29. Комиссия и Комитет просили ЕЭК и ФАО (в рамках их действующих мандатов):

а) продолжать оказывать странам поддержку в осуществлении ЦУР и Повестки дня на период до 2030 года в той части, в которой они касаются лесов, а также в выполнении Стратегического плана ООН по лесам на 2017–2030 годы;

б) представлять государствам-членам и другим заинтересованным сторонам обновленную информацию об изменениях, происходящих в глобальной и региональной политике в отношении лесов, с целью внесения вклада в процесс осуществления ЦУР и Стратегического плана ООН по лесам на 2017–2030 годы, а также в проведение обзора; и

в) продолжать работу по мониторингу лесов и проведению перспективных исследований в регионе.

30. Усилия, предпринимаемые Совместной секцией с целью внесения вклада в работу по вопросам глобальной и региональной политики в отношении лесов, получили высокую оценку, при этом Комитет и Комиссия просили продолжить эту работу в будущем.

C. Комплексная программа работы

1. Стратегический обзор Варшавской комплексной программы работы

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/4; FO:EFC/2019/4

31. Секретариат представил планы и расписание проведения Стратегического обзора Варшавской комплексной программы работы.

32. Комитет и Комиссия одобрили расписание, содержащееся в приложении I.

2. Доклад Совместной рабочей группы по вопросам статистики, экономики и управления в лесном секторе

Документация: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/2

33. Г-н Маттиас Дитер (Германия), Председатель Совместной рабочей группы по вопросам статистики, экономики и управления в лесном секторе, представил доклад о работе сорок первой сессии, которая состоялась 27–29 марта 2019 года в Женеве, Швейцария.

34. Комитет и Комиссия приняли представленную информацию к сведению.

3. Управление деятельностью Групп специалистов

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/5; FO:EFC/2019/5

35. Секретариат представил предложенные изменения, которые были рекомендованы Совместной рабочей группой и изложены в документе ECE/TIM/2019/5; FO:EFC/2019/5.

36. Комитет и Комиссия:

a) учредили на период 2020–2021 годов новую Группу специалистов (ГС) по бореальным лесам и утвердили ее круг ведения, содержащийся в приложении II;

b) поблагодарили Швецию за ее ведущую роль в создании группы по бореальным лесам (включая разработку Хапарандской декларации министров);

c) выразили признательность Российской Федерации за щедрую финансовую поддержку работы ГС по бореальным лесам;

d) приняли решение в отношении интеграции ГС по вопросам лесной политики в ГС по перспективам развития лесного сектора и утвердили новый круг ведения ГС по перспективам развития лесного сектора, содержащийся в приложении II. Круги ведения групп, не включенных в приложение II, остались без изменений и содержатся в приложении I: Варшавская комплексная программа работы к документу ECE/TIM/2017/2–FO:EFC/2017/2;

e) продлили на период 2020–2021 годов срок действия мандатов следующих Групп специалистов:

i. ГС по мониторингу устойчивого лесопользования (УЛП);

ii. ГС по устойчивым лесным товарам;

iii. ГС по статистике лесных товаров;

iv. ГС по энергоносителям на базе древесины;

v. ГС по коммуникационной деятельности лесного сектора – Сети коммуникаторов лесного сектора;

vi. ГС по «зеленым» рабочим местам – Совместной сети экспертов МОТ/ЕЭК/ФАО;

f) приняли решение о том, что ГС по «зеленым» рабочим местам в рамках своей деятельности будет также проводить работу по популяризации тематических исследований, имеющих отношение к Руководящим принципам поощрения создания «зеленых» рабочих мест в лесном хозяйстве;

g) поблагодарили ФАО за согласие предоставить секретаря для Сети коммуникаторов лесного сектора.

37. Секретариат напомнил участникам об усилиях, предпринимаемых Секцией лесного хозяйства и лесоматериалов в целях обслуживания всех групп специалистов, и настоятельно призвал государства-члены последовать примеру Российской Федерации и выделить целевые финансовые средства для поддержки работы Групп специалистов.

4. Обзор мероприятий, проведенных в 2019 году, и мероприятий, запланированных на 2020 год

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/6; FO:EFC/2019/6

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/7; FO:EFC/2019/7

38. Секретариат проинформировал участников о мероприятиях, проведенных в 2019 году, и представил предварительный перечень материалов и мероприятий, запланированных на 2020 год, а также перечень публикаций, которые предлагается издать в 2020 и 2021 годах.

39. Комитет и Комиссия одобрили мероприятия, запланированные на 2020 год и содержащиеся в приложении III, а также публикации, которые предлагается издать в 2020 и 2021 годах и которые содержатся в приложении IV.

5. Руководящие принципы поощрения создания «зеленых» рабочих мест в лесном хозяйстве

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/8; FO:EFC/2019/8

40. Секретариат представил информацию о совместной работе ЕЭК, ФАО и процесса «Леса Европы» над «Руководящими принципами ЕЭК/ФАО/процесса "Леса Европы"», касающимися поощрения создания «зеленых» рабочих мест в лесном хозяйстве.

41. Комитет и Комиссия:

а) утвердили Руководящие принципы, содержащиеся в документе ECE/TIM/2019/Inf.4; FO:EFC/2017/Inf.4;

б) высоко оценили сотрудничество между Секцией лесного хозяйства и лесоматериалов ЕЭК/ФАО и процессом «Леса Европы» в рамках работы по подготовке Руководящих принципов;

в) предложили государствам-членам рассмотреть вопрос об использовании Руководящих принципов и содействовать их популяризации на национальном уровне;

г) предложили секретариату содействовать передаче знаний, укреплению потенциала и изысканию новых возможностей для создания инновационных рабочих мест в лесном хозяйстве; и

д) предложили Группе специалистов по «зеленым» рабочим местам продолжить обмен опытом в области осуществления руководящих принципов, собрать конкретные примеры передовой практики в регионе ЕЭК, разместить их в Интернете, в том числе в социальных сетях, и вести работу по их популяризации в целях привлечения большего числа молодых людей на «зеленые» рабочие места в лесном секторе.

6. Восстановление лесных ландшафтов

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

42. Секретариат представил информацию о деятельности секции по вопросам восстановления лесных ландшафтов, а также региональную инициативу ЕКЦА–30, которая была выдвинута в 2019 году в ходе Саммита ООН по мерам борьбы с изменением климата. ЕКЦА–30 представляет собой региональную инициативу стран Европы, Кавказа и Центральной Азии, цель которой состоит в восстановлении к 2030 году 30 млн гектаров земель, подвергшихся деградации. Десятилетие ООН по восстановлению экосистем (2021–2030 годы), одним из ведущих координаторов проведения которого является ФАО, заложит основу для будущей работы.

43. Г-жа Паола Агостини, ведущий экономист-эколог Всемирного банка, рассказала о возможностях финансирования деятельности по восстановлению лесных

ландшафтов через созданный Всемирным банком многосторонний донорский целевой фонд «ProGreen» и об его участии в ЕКЦА–30.

D. Итоги Регионального форума по устойчивому развитию в регионе ЕЭК ООН и Политического форума высокого уровня по устойчивому развитию

44. Секретариат представил итоги Регионального форума и Политического форума высокого уровня по устойчивому развитию.

45. Комитет и Комиссия приняли представленную информацию к сведению и просили секретариат направить им соответствующую обновленную информацию об этих двух процессах и определить пути для внесения вклада в работу этих совещаний.

E. Обновленная информация о юридически обязательном соглашении в отношении лесов в Европе (ЮОС)

46. Секретариат представил делегатам обновленную информацию о ходе обсуждения вопроса о возможном возобновлении переговоров по юридически обязательному соглашению в отношении лесов в Европе, в том числе о неофициальном совещании (31 октября – 1 ноября 2019 года, Женева, Швейцария), на котором обсуждались элементы проекта решения Исполнительного комитета и проект круга ведения возможной переговорной группы. Проект документа будет дополнительно обсужден на втором неофициальном совещании, которое планируется провести в конце января 2020 года. Секретариат в надлежащее время проинформирует постоянные представительства в Женеве о точной дате проведения этого совещания.

47. Комитет и Комиссия приняли представленную информацию к сведению.

F. Обсуждение положения на рынке

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/9; FO:EFC/2019/9

48. Обсуждение положения на рынке открыл сопредседатель, который представил ведущую дискуссии – г-жу Сильвию Мелегари из Европейской ассоциации лесопильной промышленности. Секретариат представил тему и пояснил, что справочная информация, включая Ежегодный обзор рынка лесных товаров, 2018–2019 годы, была распространена среди участников. Ведущая кратко рассказала о заседании и представила докладчиков.

49. Г-н Расс Вааген, основатель и генеральный директор компании «Вааген тимберс», представил доклад «Превращение горящих лесов в возобновляемые города».

50. Г-н Игорь Новоселов, основатель и руководитель аналитического отдела агентства «УотВуд» выступил с докладом на тему «Изменения в лесном секторе СНГ».

51. Г-н Рихард Штейндль, руководитель отдела перекрестно-клееных лесоматериалов, компания «Стора Энсо тимбер Дойчланд ГмбХ», представил доклад на тему «Строительство из дерева в Европе на примере CLT: история и перспективы».

52. Г-н Эдуард Аким, заведующий кафедрой технологии целлюлозы и композиционных материалов Высшей школы технологии и энергетики Санкт-Петербургского государственного университета промышленных технологий и дизайна, выступил с докладом на тему «Изменения в целлюлозно-бумажной отрасли Российской Федерации».

53. Г-н Александр Пекарец, технический директор ООО «Лесная технологическая компания» и заместитель председателя правления РАО «Бумпром», выступил с докладом «Инновационная технология производства брикетов из древесного угля в Российской Федерации».

54. Основные выводы, сделанные в ходе выступлений и обсуждений, были отражены в Заявлении о состоянии рынка, которое было рассмотрено редакционным комитетом.

55. Комитет и Комиссия утвердили Заявление о состоянии рынка, содержащееся в приложении к настоящему докладу (приложение V).

VII. Вопросы, касающиеся Комитета по лесам и лесной отрасли (КЛЛО) (Пункт 4 повестки дня)

56. Заседание по вопросам, касающимся КЛЛО, открыл г-н Гай Робертсон, Председатель КЛЛО.

A. Вопросы, возникающие в связи с шестьдесят восьмой сессией Европейской экономической комиссии (ЕЭК)

Документация: E/ECE/1488

57. Г-жа Паола Деда, секретарь Комитета, проинформировала делегатов о решениях, которые были приняты ЕЭК на ее шестьдесят восьмой сессии, состоявшейся 8–10 апреля 2019 года в Женеве, Швейцария, и которые имеют отношение к Комплексной программе работы, и предложила делегатам эти решения и соответствующие изменения при планировании будущей деятельности, в частности при изменении названия подпрограммы с «Лесное хозяйство и лесоматериалы» на «Леса и лесная промышленность». Секретариат далее пояснил, что изменение названия не предполагает изменений в деятельности.

58. Комитет принял представленную информацию к сведению.

B. Правила процедуры КЛЛО

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/10; FO:EFC/2019/10

59. Секретарь представил информацию, содержащуюся в документе ECE/TIM/2019/10–FO:EFC/2019/10, и предложил делегатам рассмотреть предложение об изменении пункта 9 действующих правил процедуры КЛЛО.

60. Комитет согласился со следующим текстом пункта 9: «Представителям неправительственных организаций, частного сектора, научных кругов и других структур, которые проводят работу, имеющую отношение к лесному сектору и КЛЛО, но не имеют консультативного статуса при Экономическом и Социальном Совете² и сообщили секретариату о своем желании быть представленными по меньшей мере за 20 дней до начала совещания, может быть разрешено участвовать в качестве наблюдателей без права голоса при условии получения согласия секретариата».

61. Пересмотренные Правила процедуры КЛЛО содержатся в приложении VI.

C. Лесной целевой фонд ЕЭК

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/11; FO:EFC/2019/11

62. Секретарь проинформировала делегатов о текущем состоянии Целевого фонда для исследований ЕЭК, посвященных долгосрочным тенденциям и перспективам развития европейского сектора лесоматериалов.

63. Комитет постановил сохранить Лесной целевой фонд ЕЭК с целью поддержки деятельности Комитета и соответствующей подпрограммы ЕЭК посредством создания

² На неправительственные организации, признаваемые Экономическим и Социальным Советом, распространяется документ E/ECE/778/Rev.5, который упоминается в пункте 8.

нового идентификационного номера проекта «Умоджа» с кодом Целевого фонда 32ЕСЕ при том понимании, что эта деятельность будет продолжаться в будущем.

D. Программа работы по Подпрограмме «Лесное хозяйство и лесоматериалы»

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/12; FO:EFC/2019/12

64. Секретарь представила проект программы работы по Подпрограмме «Лесное хозяйство и лесоматериалы» (теперь переименована в «Леса и лесная промышленность») на 2020 год.

65. Комитет принял программу работы.

E. Вопросы, связанные с юридически обязательным соглашением в отношении лесов в Европе

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/13; FO:EFC/2019/13

66. Секретарь отметила, что этот пункт уже обсуждался в рамках пункта 3е повестки дня, при этом никакой дополнительной информации представлено не было.

F. Выборы должностных лиц

67. Комитет избрал г-на Гая Робертсона (Соединенные Штаты) Председателем, а г-жу Марию Соколенко (Российская Федерация), г-жу Марту Гаворскую (Польша) и г-на Вардана Меликяна (Армения) заместителями Председателя, с тем чтобы они занимали эти посты до конца семьдесят восьмой сессии.

68. Участники сессии тепло поблагодарили покидающего свой пост заместителя Председателя г-на Кристофа Дюрра (Швейцария) за его прекрасную работу на протяжении многих лет, в том числе за его ценный вклад в работу КЛЛО и Бюро, за его поддержку сотрудничества с ЕКЛХ и за его дружескую помощь.

G. Сроки и место проведения следующей сессии

69. Председатель проинформировал делегатов о том, что при условии наличия возможностей конференционного обслуживания для семьдесят восьмой сессии Комитета, которая будет проходить в Женеве, Швейцария, предварительно была зарезервирована неделя с 2 по 6 ноября 2020 года.

H. Прочие вопросы

70. Какие-либо прочие вопросы не рассматривались.

VIII. Вопросы, касающиеся Европейской комиссии ФАО по лесному хозяйству (ЕКЛХ) (Пункт 5 повестки дня)

71. Заседание по вопросам, касающимся ЕКЛХ, открыла г-жа Кристина Фарси, Председатель ЕКЛХ.

А. Последующая деятельность в связи с решениями, принятыми на тридцать девятой сессии Европейской комиссии по лесному хозяйству

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

72. Г-н Экрем Язычы, секретарь Комиссии, представил документ и сообщил о мерах, которые были приняты в ответ на просьбы, высказанные Комиссией на ее тридцать девятой сессии.

73. Комиссия дала высокую оценку достигнутому прогрессу и подчеркнула важность работы ФАО, посвященной:

- a) инвазивным видам и способам смягчения воздействия жуков-короедов в регионе;
- b) адаптации к изменению климата и сопротивляемости ему;
- c) мониторингу лесов и представлению отчетности, в том числе Глобальному базовому набору показателей по лесам, а также терминологии и определениям деградации; и
- d) государственно-частным партнерствам, в частности в области восстановления.

74. Комиссия рекомендовала ФАО чаще представлять в рамках программы Глобальной оценки лесных ресурсов (ОЛР) обновленную информацию об изменениях в площади лесов и землепользовании.

В. Информация о деятельности Регионального отделения ФАО для Европы и Центральной Азии, касающейся лесного хозяйства

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

75. Г-жа Широма Сатиапала, сотрудник по вопросам лесного хозяйства, Региональное отделение ФАО для Европы и Центральной Азии, представила информацию о деятельности этого Регионального отделения ФАО в 2018–2019 годах.

76. Г-н Петер Пехацек, сотрудник по вопросам лесного хозяйства, Субрегиональное отделение ФАО для Центральной Азии, представил информацию о деятельности этого Субрегионального отделения ФАО в 2018–2019 годах.

77. Делегаты приветствовали представленную информацию и дали высокую оценку работе ФАО в этом регионе.

78. Комиссия призвала страны региона:

- a) более эффективно инкорпорировать комплексные ландшафтные подходы, которые применяют различные учреждения, занимающиеся вопросами землепользования в сельском, лесном и рыбном хозяйстве, в соответствующие национальные процессы планирования и укреплять межсекторальное сотрудничество на уровне ландшафтов; и
- b) предоставлять финансовые взносы и/или взносы натурой в целях поддержки региональных программ ФАО в области лесного хозяйства и работы ФАО по проектам, в том числе в интересах обеспечения дополнительного финансирования для проектов Глобального экологического фонда (ГЭФ) и Зеленого климатического фонда (ЗКФ).

79. Комиссия рекомендовала ФАО:

- a) продолжать интегрировать комплексные ландшафтные подходы в проводимую в регионе оперативную работу по вопросам лесного хозяйства, в полной мере учитывая при этом многофункциональную роль лесов;

b) продолжать оказывать поддержку деятельности в области управления природными ресурсами (в том числе лесными) путем укрепления национальной политики, финансирования, создания стимулов, введения рамок и механизмов налогообложения и регулирования, включая правила и стандарты, мониторинга лесохозяйственных операций и практики, а также наращивания потенциала в этой области;

c) продолжать оказывать поддержку Сети по лесным инвазивным видам для стран Европы и Центральной Азии (REUFIS) и ее деятельности, в частности в организации тематических программ подготовки по новым инвазивным видам и обеспечении синергизма с другими соответствующими организациями, как то процесс «Леса Европы»; и

d) укреплять региональное сотрудничество по вопросам борьбы с лесными пожарами.

C. Деятельность Комитета «Silva Mediterranea»

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/16; FO:EFC/2019/16

80. Г-н Чади Моханна, Председатель Комитета «Silva Mediterranea», представил обзорную информацию о деятельности, проведенной под эгидой Комитета «Silva Mediterranea», в том числе о подготовке доклада «Состояние лесов Средиземноморья», достижениях рабочих групп и шестой Неделе лесов Средиземноморья.

81. Комиссия приветствовала информацию о проведенных мероприятиях и:

a) настоятельно призвала ФАО изучить пути и способы разработки и осуществления проекта «Расширение прав и возможностей молодых предпринимателей в Средиземноморье» («MedForYouth»); и

b) предложила всем заинтересованным сторонам оказать содействие в подготовке седьмой Недели лесов Средиземноморья, которая состоится в 2021 году в Тунисе, и призвала привлечь к участию в ней делегатов высокого уровня.

D. Доклад о деятельности Рабочей группы по вопросам управления горными водосборными бассейнами

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/17; FO:EFC/2019/17

82. Г-жа Юка Макино, секретарь Рабочей группы ЕКЛХ по вопросам управления горными водосборными бассейнами, рассказала о деятельности Рабочей группы, в том числе о ее последней инициативе, касающейся защитных функций лесов в условиях изменения климата.

83. Комиссия приняла к сведению информацию о деятельности Рабочей группы и поддержала рекомендации, содержащиеся в представленном документе.

E. Дискуссия с участием приглашенных экспертов на тему: «Опасность, которую представляют для европейских лесов новые инвазивные виды»

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/18; FO:EFC/2019/18

84. Функции ведущего дискуссии выполняла Председатель, при этом приглашенные эксперты обсудили самые разнообразные аспекты рисков, связанных с инвазивными видами. Участники дискуссии:

a) признали растущие угрозы, которые представляют инвазивные виды для лесов региона, и настоятельную необходимость решения этой трансграничной проблемы в национальном, региональном и глобальном масштабе как на политическом, так и на оперативном уровнях;

b) признали важность поддержки региональных сетей и организаций в целях обеспечения обмена информацией и опытом по вопросам, связанным с лесными инвазивными видами, а также укрепления потенциала;

c) подчеркнули важность информирования общественности и использования усовершенствованных средств коммуникации для охвата всех социально-демографических групп;

d) отметили необходимость расширения на трансграничном уровне сотрудничества в деле предупреждения интродукции лесных инвазивных видов и борьбы с ними, а также разработки национальной и региональной политики сотрудничества в рамках оперативной деятельности;

e) признали необходимость укрепления потенциала в области применения комплексных методов борьбы с вредителями и осуществления фитосанитарных мер в лесном хозяйстве; и

f) признали растущую угрозу, которую представляют жуки-короеды для лесов региона, последствия для рынка древесины и необходимость повышения сопротивляемости лесов к вспышкам численности жуков-короедов в условиях изменения климата.

85. Комиссия призвала страны региона активизировать свое участие в работе Сети по лесным инвазивным видам для стран Европы и Центральной Азии и внести вклад в ее деятельность с целью укрепления регионального сотрудничества в области обеспечения санитарной безопасности лесов и борьбы с лесными инвазивными видами в регионе.

86. Комиссия просила ФАО:

a) продолжать оказывать поддержку Сети по лесным инвазивным видам для стран Европы и Центральной Азии и осуществлению ее деятельности; и

b) оказать поддержку кросс-секторальным мерам по карантину и защите лесов, которые содействуют сохранению биоразнообразия, а также адаптации к изменению климата и смягчения его последствий.

Г. Работа ФАО по вопросам биоразнообразия

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/19; FO:EFC/2019/19

87. Г-н Яркко Коскела, сотрудник по вопросам лесного хозяйства, ФАО, представил обновленную информацию о работе, проводимой ФАО в области биоразнообразия на глобальном уровне, в том числе о недавней сессии Комиссии по генетическим ресурсам для производства продовольствия и ведения сельского хозяйства и разработке Стратегии ФАО в отношении всестороннего учета вопросов биоразнообразия в сельскохозяйственных секторах.

88. Комиссия предложила странам-членам:

a) продолжать всесторонним образом учитывать вопросы биоразнообразия во всех секторах сельского хозяйства;

b) высказать предложения и замечания по Стратегии ФАО в отношении всестороннего учета вопросов биоразнообразия в сельскохозяйственных секторах; и

c) укреплять работу по осуществлению международных соглашений, касающиеся биоразнообразия и лесов, а также Глобального плана действий по сохранению, рациональному использованию и развитию лесных генетических ресурсов.

89. Комиссия призвала страны подготовить страновые доклады для второго Доклада о состоянии лесных генетических ресурсов в мире и представить их в ФАО к 30 июня 2020 года.

90. Комиссия просила ФАО:

а) приступить после принятия Стратегии ФАО в отношении всестороннего учета вопросов биоразнообразия в сельскохозяйственных секторах к осуществлению необходимых последующих действий, в том числе к реализации плана всестороннего учета биоразнообразия в лесном секторе, и представить доклад о достигнутом прогрессе на соответствующей следующей сессии; и

б) продолжать представлять региональным комиссиям по лесному хозяйству доклады о касающейся лесов деятельности Комиссии по генетическим ресурсам для производства продовольствия и ведения сельского хозяйства, об осуществлении Глобального плана действий по сохранению, рациональному использованию и развитию лесных генетических ресурсов, а также о подготовке второго Доклада о состоянии лесных генетических ресурсов в мире.

Г. Роль устойчивых цепочек производства и сбыта древесины в достижении ЦУР

91. Г-н Петер Чока, старший сотрудник по вопросам лесного хозяйства, ФАО, рассказал о глобальной инициативе ФАО «Устойчивая древесина для устойчивого мира» (SW4SW) и о роли устойчивых цепочек производства и сбыта древесины в достижении ЦУР.

92. Комиссия предложила странам региона:

а) поддержать цели инициативы «SW4SW», а также их распространение и достижение;

б) укрепить эту инициативу, увязав ее с другими соответствующими процессами и инициативами на глобальном, региональном и национальном уровнях; и

в) предоставить финансовые взносы и/или взносы натурой для расширения масштабов реализации инициативы «SW4SW».

93. Комиссия просила ФАО:

а) оказать поддержку усилиям стран региона по оценке и использованию потенциала устойчивых цепочек производства и сбыта древесины в плане внесения вклада в достижение ЦУР и борьбу с изменением климата, а также в формирование и развитие биоэкономики на базе древесины на национальном уровне;

б) стремиться к расширению сотрудничества с региональными партнерами в целях укрепления устойчивых цепочек производства и сбыта древесины и их вклада в обеспечение устойчивого лесопользования, достижение целей в области создания устойчивых ландшафтов и борьбы с изменением климата, в том числе целей Десятилетия семейных фермерских хозяйств и Десятилетия восстановления экосистем; и

в) наладить взаимодействие с государственным и частным секторами в целях улучшения общественного мнения об устойчивой продукции из древесины, подчеркивая при этом выгоды, которые дают устойчивые цепочки производства и сбыта древесины, и отмечая различия между устойчивой и неустойчивой продукцией из древесины.

Н. Глобальные процессы

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/20; FO:EFC/2019/20

94. Г-жа Метте Вилкие, Директор Отдела ФАО по вопросам лесной политики и ресурсов, представила информацию об итогах двадцать четвертой Конференции Сторон Рамочной конвенции Организации Объединенных Наций об изменении климата (КС 24 РККООН), Политического форума высокого уровня (ПФВУ)

2019 года, Саммита ООН по мерам борьбы с изменением климата, Всемирного форума по городским лесам, Всемирного конгресса по агролесному хозяйству, десятилетий ООН (семейные фермерские хозяйства, восстановление экосистем), а также информацию о последствиях реформы ООН и реформах Международной комиссии по культуре тополя.

95. Комиссия:

a) приняла к сведению касающиеся лесов итоги КС 24 РККОООН и предложила странам рассмотреть вопрос о том, каким образом увеличить связанный с лесами вклад в осуществление их определяемых на национальном уровне вкладов (ОНУВ);

b) приняла к сведению касающиеся лесов итоги четырнадцатой Конференции Сторон Конвенции о биологическом разнообразии (КС 14 КБР) и предложила странам внести вклад в разработку глобальной рамочной программы по сохранению биоразнообразия на период после 2020 года;

c) приняла к сведению выводы ПФВУ и решила предпринимать касающиеся лесов усилия, которые перечислены в Декларации министров;

d) предложила странам содействовать поиску основанных на природных принципах решений проблемы изменения климата и призвала к осуществлению решений, представленных на Саммите Организации Объединенных Наций по мерам борьбы с изменением климата;

e) приняла к сведению итоги первого Всемирного форума по городским лесам и предложила странам содействовать популяризации инициативы «Зеленые города мира»;

f) рекомендовала Комитету ФАО по лесному хозяйству (КЛХ) обратить внимание на возможности, которые дает проведение Десятилетия семейных фермерских хозяйств ООН и Десятилетия по восстановлению экосистем ООН для расширения масштабов деятельности по восстановлению лесов и ландшафтов;

g) приняла к сведению информацию о процессе реформы ООН и призвала развивающиеся страны обеспечить, чтобы вопросам лесного хозяйства уделялось заслуженное приоритетное внимание при разработке касающихся их стран документов по линии Рамочной программы ООН по сотрудничеству в области устойчивого развития; и

h) предложила странам – членам Международной комиссии по культуре тополя (МККТ) принять участие в продолжающейся реформе МККТ, а также предложить странам, не являющимся членами МККТ, рассмотреть вопрос о присоединении к деятельности МККТ в рамках ее нового мандата.

96. Комиссия просила ФАО:

a) продолжать вносить вклад в реализацию Программы глобальных действий по борьбе с изменением климата и поощрять связанные с лесами инициативы, проекты и программы, а также оказывать странам содействие в подготовке связанных с лесным хозяйством и другими секторами землепользования предложений для Зеленого климатического фонда;

b) изучить пути и средства для оказания содействия дальнейшему наращиванию вклада лесного сектора в глобальную рамочную программу по сохранению биоразнообразия на период после 2020 года и акцентировать внимание на важности местного контекста;

c) продолжать поощрять деятельность в области развития городского лесного хозяйства;

d) принять активное участие в проведении Десятилетия семейных фермерских хозяйств ООН и расширить масштабы оказания поддержки организациям производителей лесной и фермерской продукции через Фонд поддержки лесных и фермерских хозяйств;

е) информировать КЛХ о планах, касающихся проведения Десятилетия ООН по восстановлению экосистем; и

ф) содействовать реализации приоритетов, перечисленных в коммюнике ЕС «Активизация действий ЕС по охране и восстановлению лесов мира».

97. Представитель секретариата ФООНЛ г-н Хоссейн Мозини-Мейбоди сделал два заявления по пунктам 5h и 5i повестки дня. В своем заявлении по пункту 5h секретариат ФООНЛ отметил некоторые важные итоги недавнего Саммита ООН по мерам борьбы с изменением климата и Саммита ООН по ЦУР, а также вклад и участие Форума в работе ПФВУ 2019 года. Секретариат далее представил обновленную информацию о последних событиях, связанных с новой программой работы ПФВУ, а также о совместной теме следующего цикла ЭКОСОС и ПФВУ 2020 года.

98. В рамках пункта 5i повестки дня ФООНЛ проинформировал участников сессии об основных итогах работы ФООНЛ–14. Секретариат представил участникам обновленную информацию о межсессионной деятельности по подготовке к ФООНЛ–15, в том числе о сотрудничестве с региональными комиссиями ФАО по лесному хозяйству, подготовке программной публикации, прогрессе в работе над глобальным базовым набором показателей по лесам, подготовке национальных докладов для ФООНЛ–15 и предстоящих совещаниях по Информационно-координационному центру Глобальной сети содействия финансированию лесохозяйственной деятельности, а также о Четырехлетней комплексной программе работы Форума на 2021–2024 годы.

I. Осуществление Стратегического плана Организации Объединенных Наций по лесам (СПООНЛ) и сотрудничество с ФООНЛ вне рамок ВКПР

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/21; FO:EFC/2019/21

99. Г-жа Метте Вилкие, Директор Отдела ФАО по вопросам лесной политики и ресурсов, представила информацию об основных итогах ФООНЛ–14, в том числе о состоявшемся на Форуме обсуждении региональных аспектов, а также о деятельности, проводимой ФАО на глобальном и региональном уровнях в поддержку СПООНЛ.

100. Комиссия рассмотрела возможности укрепления связей между ее работой и СПООНЛ и просила ФАО:

а) продолжать оказывать поддержку осуществлению СПООНЛ;

б) провести вместе с секретариатом ФООНЛ работу с целью изучения возможностей организации региональных мероприятий в ходе технических заседаний Форума в интересах укрепления глобального-регионального взаимодействия и освещения вклада региональных комиссий по лесному хозяйству и других региональных и субрегиональных партнеров ФООНЛ в осуществление СПООНЛ и достижение Глобальных целей в отношении лесов; и

с) продолжать играть ведущую роль в СПЛ.

J. Подготовка к РКЕ 32 и КЛХ 25 и XV Всемирному лесохозяйственному конгрессу (руководящие органы ФАО)

Документация: ECE/TIM/2019/22; FO:EFC/2019/22

101. Г-н Петер Чока, старший сотрудник по вопросам лесного хозяйства, ФАО, представил информацию о подготовке тридцать второй сессии Региональной конференции ФАО для Европы (РКЕ), двадцать пятой сессии Комитета ФАО по лесному хозяйству (КЛХ) в 2020 году и программы ФАО по лесному хозяйству, а также XV Всемирного лесохозяйственного конгресса.

102. Комиссия:

a) сформулировала рекомендации для Региональной конференции для Европы и КЛХ, а также в отношении приоритетов программы, и поручила секретариату обеспечить, чтобы они были включены в сводную таблицу, содержащуюся в приложении VII, и доведены до сведения других комиссий, а также секретариатов Региональной конференции и КЛХ; и

b) предложила Председателю Региональной конференции для Европы уделить рекомендациям Комиссии надлежащее внимание в повестке дня Конференции.

103. Комиссия:

a) предложила странам оказать поддержку XV Всемирному лесохозяйственному конгрессу и содействовать обеспечению как можно более широкого присутствия на Конгрессе и участия в его работе представителей всех существующих в регионе секторов;

b) предложила, исходя из приоритетных проблем региона, темы и вопросы, которые могли бы лечь в основу технических заседаний на Конгрессе; и

c) призвала членов оказывать по мере необходимости финансовую поддержку Конгрессу, особенно для обеспечения участия развивающихся стран.

К. Выборы должностных лиц, сроки и место проведения следующей сессии

104. Председатель проинформировала делегатов о том, что четыре стороны выразили заинтересованность в двух постах заместителей Председателя, которые освободятся в конце сессии.

105. Со ссылкой на пункт 2 статьи I и пункт 1 статьи II Правил процедуры ЕКЛХ был задан вопрос в отношении права на избрание и регистрации.

106. Был задан вопрос о праве на избрание кандидатов, которые не присутствуют на этой сессии. Секретариат Комиссии пояснил, что имел место случай, когда лицо, не участвовавшее в сессии, было избрано членом Исполнительного комитета. Было запрошено мнение Юрисконсультанта ФАО, который в своем юридическом заключении заявил, что для участия в выборах кандидату необязательно присутствовать на сессии.

107. В соответствии с правилом 6 правил процедуры ЕКЛХ и правилом XII Общих правил Организации Председатель обратился к секретарю с просьбой проверить наличие кворума перед проведением голосования.

108. После этого секретарь ЕКЛХ провел переключку для установления наличного состава присутствующих членов. Он называл страны, а их представители сообщали о своем присутствии. Согласно результатам переключки, на сессии присутствовали 18 из 39 государств-членов плюс Европейский союз. В связи с отсутствием кворума (20) Председатель заявил, что, в соответствии с правилом XII 2.b. Общих правил, проведение голосования невозможно.

109. Комиссия просила секретариат как можно скорее организовать внеочередную сессию ЕКЛХ, подчеркнув настоятельную необходимость проведения выборов с помощью одного из предложенных механизмов, например, через постоянных представителей при ФАО в Риме, в привязке к сессии Совместной рабочей группы ЕЭК/ФАО по вопросам статистики, экономики и управления в лесном секторе в марте 2020 года или к сессии КЛХ–2020.

110. Это обсуждение было занесено в протокол, а стенографический отчет по этому пункту повестки дня содержится в приложении VIII.

L. Прочие вопросы

111. В связи с пунктом 3с повестки дня (Общие вопросы, касающиеся КЛЛО и ЕКЛХ) Армения сообщила о параллельном мероприятии, посвященном Стратегии восстановления ландшафта и формирования экологической инфраструктуры для Кавказа и Центральной Азии. Ожидается, что документ будет одобрен в 2020 году.

IX. Утверждение доклада о работе совместной сессии и ее закрытие (Пункт 6 повестки дня)

112. Секретариат отметил, что пока от государств-членов не поступило никаких предложений о проведении у себя в 2021 году следующей совместной сессии. Секретариат проинформирует государства-члены о возможных сроках и месте проведения сессии.

113. Комитет и Комиссия утвердили настоящий доклад о работе сессии.

114. Сопредседатели сессии поблагодарили делегатов за их вклад в подготовку доклада. Секретариат проинформировал участников о том, что окончательно отредактированный доклад будет выпущен в ближайшее время.

115. Совместная сессия была закрыта в четверг, 7 ноября 2019 года, в 18 ч 45 мин.

Annex I

[English only]

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.

Annex II

[English only]

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.

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;

³ As outlined in the Haparanda Declaration of 2018.

- 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/ Approved by:	Joint Sessions of ECE COFFI and FAO EFC, Geneva, 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) Annually, to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Team leader: (ii) To be elected at first Team meeting

Annex III

[English only]

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.

Annex IV

[English only]

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

Annex V

[English only]

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.

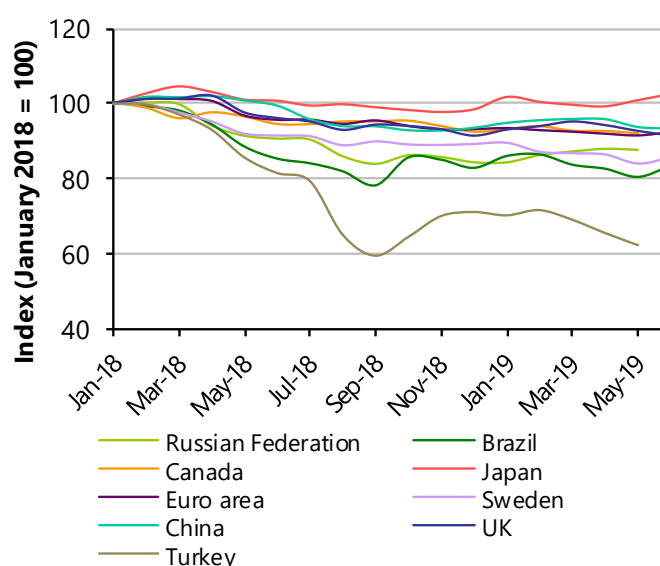
6. In the US, fiscal expansion contributed to the acceleration of economic activity in a context of weakening global growth, but the effects of this looser fiscal policy are expected to fade. Rising investment in 2018 mainly reflected an increase in demand due to additional spending, and the impact of 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 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.

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.

Annex VI

[English only]

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.

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

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).

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.

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).

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).

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.

Annex VII

[English only]

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>
<u>Global and regional context:</u> 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
<u>Follow-up to the decisions of the thirty-ninth session of the European Forestry Commission:</u> 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
<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		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 4 Goal 5	SO2, SO4

<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>
governance frameworks and measures, including regulations, standards and monitoring for forest management interventions and practices, and support capacity development in this regard;					
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
<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

<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>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
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	

<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>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

Annex VIII

[English only]

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?

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

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

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
