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**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations****Economic Commission for Europe****Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry****Seventy-seventh session**

Geneva, 4-7 November 2019

Item 4(b) of the provisional agenda

ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters:**Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Forests and the
Forest Industry****Food and Agriculture Organization****European Forestry Commission****Fortieth session**

Geneva, 4-7 November 2019

Rules of Procedure for the Committee**Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

At the seventy-sixth session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI), which took place from 5-9 November 2018 in Vancouver, Canada, the Committee adopted its Rules of Procedure as included in Annex III of document ECE/TIM/2017/2.

During the meeting of the COFFI Bureau on 26 March 2019, the Russian Federation requested to amend paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure. This document contains the proposed change for the consideration and approval of COFFI.



1. Paragraph 9 of the COFFI Rules of procedure, as approved by COFFI at its seventy-sixth session, reads:

“Representatives of non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia and other entities, which do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may participate in the individual sessions of the Committee as observers without a right to vote.”

2. The Bureau agreed to transmit the request for amendment of paragraph 9 made by the Russian Federation to the seventy-seventh session of COFFI.

3. The current COFFI Rules of Procedure adopted in Vancouver open participation to all non-governmental organizations and civil society even in the absence of consultative status with ECOSOC. The amended text would state that representatives of non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia and other entities without consultative status can participate **at the invitation of the secretariat.**

4. In accordance with the above, paragraph 9 of the COFFI Rules of Procedure would therefore read:

“Representatives of non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia and other entities, which do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may participate in the individual sessions of the Committee as observers without a right to vote at the invitation of the secretariat.”

5. **COFFI members are requested to consider and approve the proposed amendment to paragraph 9 of the COFFI Rules of Procedure. The amendment will be included in the Rules of Procedure, which will be annexed to the report of this meeting in their entirety.**
