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Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry****Food and Agriculture Organization
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4-7 November 2019

Item 4(c) of the provisional agenda

ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters:**ECE Forest Trust Fund****Fortieth session**

4-7 November 2019

**Trust Fund for the ECE Study on Long-Term European
Timber Trends and Prospects****Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

This document presents the current status of the Trust Fund for the ECE Study on Long-Term European Timber Trends and Prospects (full name of the ECE Forest Trust Fund) and provides recommendations on how to streamline funding in line with current UN and UNECE regulations.

The Committee is invited to consider the related recommendations.



1. The Trust Fund for the “ECE Study on Long-Term European Timber Trends and Prospects” (short: ECE Forest Trust Fund) was established in 1982, in order to “finance parts of the work on the studies of long-term European timber trends and prospects”.
2. The Trust Fund has supported the work of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry through the years and has been regularly replenished by donations of UNECE member States in support of specific activities of the programme of work.
3. The Trust Fund is used on an ongoing basis. Currently, funding of two important projects was provided through the Trust Fund: the study “Forests Products Annual Market Review” and a project to “Improve Dissemination of Available Forestry Information”.
4. The Bureau of the Committee considered the current state of the Trust Fund at its meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, on 26 March 2019, and recommended to:
 - Maintain the ECE Forest Trust Fund to support activities of the Committee and the related UNECE sub-programme;
 - Urge member States to consider replenishing the Trust Fund to cover activities contained in the programme of work (ECE/TIM/2019/12-FO:EFC/2019/12) and in the list of activities for 2019-2020 as contained in document ECE/TIM/2019/6-FO:EFC/2019/6 and in accordance with UN and UNECE rules and regulations;
 - Urge the Secretariat of UNECE to continue to use the Trust Fund to support specific activities to be implemented on an annual basis in support of the programme of work 2020 (ECE/TIM/2019/12-FO:EFC/2019/12) as contained in document ECE/TIM/2019/6-FO:EFC/2019/6, as much as possible and in line with UN rules and regulations;
 - Rename the Trust Fund to “Forests Trust Fund” to reflect its current use in support of the programme of work.
5. The Committee is invited to consider the recommendations above.
