

**Economic and Social Council**

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Economic Commission for Europe**Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry****Seventy-eighth session**

Geneva, 4-6 November 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventy-eighth session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on 4 November 2020 at 11 a.m.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Forests in the decade of action:
 - (a) Keynote presentation;
 - (b) Panel discussion on forest landscape restoration.
3. The global and regional policy context:
 - (a) United Nations Forum on Forests 2020;
 - (b) Twenty-fifth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry;
 - (c) Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region 2020;
 - (d) High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2020;
 - (e) Report on the ECE Executive Committee meeting on the possible Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe process.
4. Forest economics and markets.
5. Strategic Review of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work.
6. Reporting on and implementation of the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions:
 - (a) Review of 2020 activities and activities planned for 2021;
 - (b) Draft Programme of Work of the Forests and Forest Industry



- Subprogramme for 2021;
- (c) Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia;
 - (d) Contribution to Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA2020) and the pan-European reporting on forests and sustainable forest management process 2020;
- 7. Evaluation plan for 2022.
 - 8. Election of officers.
 - 9. Date and place of the next session.
 - 10. Any other business.
 - 11. Adoption of the report and closure of the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

For the timing of agenda items, please refer to the schedule on the last two pages of this document.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/1

The meeting will be opened by the Chair of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) who will present the agenda. The agenda was prepared in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee. Delegates will be invited to adopt the agenda of the meeting.

2. Forests in the decade of action

(a) Keynote presentation

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/3

A keynote speech on the Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening Infrastructure in Central Asia and the Caucasus will open this agenda item.

Delegates will be invited to ask questions and comment on the topic.

(b) Panel discussion on forest landscape restoration

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/Inf.2

The panel will feature updates on the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration in Eastern and South-East Europe organized jointly by COFFI and EFC, the ECCA30 initiative, and progress on the implementation of pledges under the Bonn Challenge in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Delegates will be invited to take note of the information provided and share information on tools for implementation of forest landscape restoration in their countries.

3. The global and regional policy context

Some of the events listed under this agenda item (below) may be postponed to a later date due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

(a) United Nations Forum on Forests 2020

The fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF15) did not take place in 2020. Nevertheless, the Forum adopted the UNFF15 resolution on 30 June 2020 through a silence procedure.

Delegates will be informed about the process and the resolution, and will be invited to make recommendations on the possible contributions of the work of the Committee to the United Nations Forum on Forests.

(b) Twenty-fifth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry

Delegates will be informed of decisions taken at the twenty-fifth session of the FAO Committee on Forests that are relevant to the work of COFFI.

(c) Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region 2020

The outcomes of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region, which took place as a virtual meeting on 19 March 2020, will be presented. In particular, delegates will be informed on the ECE Trees in Cities Challenge, which was discussed at the Forum as an example of a concrete action that can accelerate progress on Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs). Information on the programme of the Regional Forum in 2021 will also be provided.

Delegates are invited to make recommendations on the possible contribution of the Committee to the next session of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region in 2021.

(d) High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2020

Delegates will be informed about relevant discussions and outcomes of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, United States, 7-16 July 2020, virtual meeting). Delegates will also receive information on the programme of the High-level Political Forum in 2021.

Delegates are invited to make recommendations on the possible contribution of the Committee to the next session of the Forum in 2021.

(e) Report of the ECE Executive Committee meeting on the possible Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe process

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/Inf.3

Delegates will be informed about the outcome of the ECE Executive Committee meeting on the possible Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe process.

Delegates are invited to take note of the information provided.

4. Forest economics and markets

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/4

The COFFI Market Discussions will focus on trends and drivers of forest products markets in the ECE region in 2019 and 2020. A forecast on expected market developments for the coming year will be given. Topics of the discussion will include, but are not limited to, the influence of the COVID-19 outbreak on the sector and the extent of the bark beetle infestation of forests in Europe and its impact on present and future coniferous roundwood and sawnwood markets. The discussions will be supported by data and information provided by the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire 2019, the Timber Forecast Questionnaire 2020, price statistics, as well as the Forest Products Annual Market Review 2019-2020.

Delegates will be invited to share information on market developments in their countries, participate in the Market Statement Drafting Committee and finally, adopt the Market Statement.

5. Strategic Review of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/7

Delegates will be informed about the status of the Strategic Review of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work process. In addition, the secretariat will present the results of the stakeholders' survey and elements for further inputs and discussion on the future Integrated Programme of Work.

The Committee will be invited to: (i) make recommendations on the development the new Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025; (ii) agree on the adjustments to the approved roadmap as contained in ECE/TIM/2019/2-FO:EFC/2019/2, which were needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. Reporting on and implementation of the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions

(a) Review of 2020 activities and activities planned for 2021

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/5

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/9

Joint COFFI and EFC activities implemented in 2020 and a provisional list of outputs, publications and activities for 2021 will be presented.

The Committee will be invited to approve the activities for 2021.

(b) Draft Programme of Work of Forests and the Forest Industry Subprogramme for 2021

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/6

In December 2017, the General Assembly approved the change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis from 2020 onwards (resolution 72/266). The draft programme of work for 2021 follows the annual format introduced from 2020, with amendments reflecting General Assembly resolution 74/251 adopted in December 2019. The secretariat will present the planned draft programme of work for 2021, including publications.

Delegates will be invited to review and adopt the draft programme of work of Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2021 and recommend it to the ECE Executive Committee for approval.

(c) Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/8

There will be a review of the outcomes of the capacity-building project “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”, funded through United Nations Development Account (2016-2020).

Delegates will be invited to provide recommendations on follow-up.

(d) Contribution to Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA2020) and the pan-European reporting on forests and sustainable forest management process 2020

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/10

This agenda item will consider the main results of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 and the pan-European reporting on forests and sustainable forest management process 2020. Both processes were coordinated and carried out by FAO, ECE and Forest Europe, with the participation of other forest-related organizations and processes. For the first time, the global and regional (pan-European) data will be featured on the same data platform, which will be presented to delegates.

The Committee will be invited to take note of the completion of the 2020 reporting cycle and discuss the recent results and progress on implementing sustainable forest management in the region.

7. Evaluation plan for 2022

The Committee will be presented with a proposal for the planned subprogramme evaluation for 2022.

The Committee is invited to discuss and agree on the topic for the subprogramme evaluation to be conducted in 2022.

8. Election of officers

The Committee is expected to elect its Chair and Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the seventy-ninth session. At the seventy-seventh session, the following individuals were elected to hold office until the end of the seventy-eighth session: Chair, Mr. Guy Robertson (United States), and Vice-Chairs, Ms. Marta Gaworska (Poland); Ms. Maria Sokolenko (Russian Federation) and Mr. Vardan Melikyan (Armenia).

9. Date and place of the next session

At the joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission held in Geneva, Switzerland in November 2019 (“Foret2019”) it was decided to organize the next session of the Committee jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission from 1-5 November 2021.

Delegates will be informed of any offers to host the seventy-ninth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry, to be held jointly with the forty-second session of the FAO European Forestry Commission, and consider for approval any offers to host the meeting.

10. Any other business

None at the time of writing.

11. Adoption of the report and closure of the session

The Chair will summarize the major decisions taken by the Committee. The Committee is invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat. The Chair will close the session.

III. Tentative timetable

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, seventy-eighth session

Wednesday, 4 November 2020

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
11:00 – 13:00	Item 1	Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
	Item 2	Forests in the decade of action
		(a) Keynote presentation (b) Panel discussion on forest landscape restoration
15:00 – 17:00	Item 3	The global and regional policy context
		(a) United Nations Forum on Forests 2020
		(b) Twenty-fifth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry
		(c) Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region 2020
		(d) High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2020 (e) Report on the ECE Executive Committee meeting on the possible Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe process

Thursday, 5 November 2020

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
11:00 – 13:00	Item 4	Forest economics and markets
15:00 – 17:00	Item 5	Strategic Review of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work

Friday, 6 November 2020

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
11:00 – 13:00	Item 6	Reporting on and implementation of the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions
		(a) Review of 2020 activities and activities planned for 2021
		(b) Draft Programme of Work of Forests and the Forest Industry Subprogramme for 2021
		(c) Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia
		(d) Contribution to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA2020) and the pan-European reporting on forests and sustainable forest management process 2020

15:00 – 17:00	Item 7	Evaluation plan for 2022
	Item 8	Election of officers
	Item 9	Date and place of the next session
	Item 10	Any other business
	Item 11	Adoption of the report and closure of the session
