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TIMBER COMMITTEE

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REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES SINCE THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document describes the implementation of the programme of work since 2008, for information and review by the Committee; highlights the expected activities and outputs 2009-2010, for guidance and endorsement by the Committee; presents the draft Strategic Framework 2012-13, and includes a proposal for future United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNECE/FAO) activities on forests and climate change developed by the secretariat based on a gap analysis and approved by the Bureaux.

The Committee is invited to take note of the activities under the programme of work; to endorse the list of the outputs planned for 2009-2010; to provide guidance on all aspects of the programme of work; to review and approve the United Nations Strategic Framework 2012-2013; and to review and approve the UNECE/FAO strategy on forests and climate change

I. INTRODUCTION

1. As in previous years, this agenda item presents an opportunity to brief the Timber Committee on the implementation of the integrated programme of work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Timber Committee (TC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) European Forestry Commission (EFC) and planned future activities. This background document is prepared on the basis of the request by the Committee at its sixty-sixth session (ECE/TIM/2008/9).

2. Under this item, the Committee will also be invited to review and approve the future activities on forests and climate change under the UNECE/FAO programme of work.

II. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED SINCE THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE

3. At its sixty-sixth session, the Timber Committee, joint with the European Forestry Commission approved the Strategic Plan of the UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work for the period 2008-2013 (ECE/TIM/2008/7). The different programme elements, as approved in the Strategic Plan, are presented in Annex 1, along with the outputs planned for 2009-2010. *The Committee is invited to review and approve the list of planned outputs for the period October 2009-December 2010.*

4. The Bureaux are charged with the review of the programme of work and briefed once annually of its implementation under the different work areas. Secretariat background notes and reports of meetings of the Bureaux on the implementation of the programme of work, containing a status of planned outputs, are available at www.unece.org/timber.

5. Activities are carried out under practically all work areas and the programme elements of the Strategic Plan. With regard to forest sector country profiles, the Bureaux agreed at their meeting on 3 April 2009 that country profiles as they had been produced in the last years should not be continued, in particular taking into account the lack of availability of resources and the criticism related to their quality and consistency voiced through the Strategic Review of the programme of work of the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission. Alternative options, including the improvement of online data available at the FAO forest sector country profiles, were discussed, which would need to be implemented jointly with FAO Headquarters, and which will be pursued in the longer term.

6. Another item which is temporarily suspended in the absence of resources is the separate collection and dissemination of forest fire statistics. Overall national forest fire statistics are being collected and analysed through the Forest Resources Assessment 2010 and the quantitative indicators of Sustainable Forest Management for the next State of Europe's Forests report.

7. Discussions with colleagues and partners and the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fires, now serviced by FAO, are being pursued. This will determine the future of work on forest fire, including the collection of statistics, and discuss the strategic direction of this work under the joint programme of work. The Committee is invited to express its views on this matter.

III. WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

8. Since the adoption of the Strategic Plan at the sixty-sixth session of the Committee, all seven UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists have held their inaugural meetings. On 2 April 2009, a joint meeting was held with the Bureaux and the leaders of all UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists, or their representatives, which provided for an opportunity for mutual briefing of activities and plans. Synergies were identified as well as opportunities to enhance cooperation between the different teams. Means to facilitate this cooperation have been established, such as an email exchange listserver, encouraging the team leaders to share meeting agendas and information on other related events, and to invite the leaders and members of other teams to attend. In addition, the Timber Section has developed a website with explanations and links to all teams accessible at www.unece.org/timber. The reports and presentations by each Team to its parent body, the FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics or the Bureaux, as well as the meeting report are also available on the website of the Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission.

IV. UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2012-2013

9. In a system of advance planning for performance evaluations, the United Nations Strategic Framework for the UNECE timber and forestry subprogramme has to be prepared several years in advance. The Timber Committee is requested to review and comment on the Strategic Framework 2012-2013 on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat (Annex 2). In accordance with the UNECE programme planning process, the draft Strategic Framework has to be reviewed by the Sectoral Committees and endorsed by the UNECE Executive Committee before its submission to United Nations Headquarters in New York.

10. The United Nations Strategic Framework aligns the programme objective and strategy with the Strategic Plan of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work on timber and forestry 2008-13 approved by the Timber Committee at its sixty-sixth session, joint with the thirty third session of the European Forestry Commission during the European Forest Week, following the 2007-2008 Strategic Review and the Special Session of the Committee and the Commission in April 2008.

11. The strategy contained in the United Nations Strategic Framework sets out that “priorities for 2012-2013 will be guided by the outcome of relevant forums, notably the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, and by the continued effort to address forests and climate change, as requested by member States and stakeholders through the Strategic Review 2008.”

V. FUTURE ACTIVITIES ON FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

12. The Strategic Review had identified climate change as the priority area of concern for the next five years, indicated by two thirds of all participating countries. Following discussions on

the possible creation of a new Team of Specialists during the Special Session on the Strategic Review and Plan in April 2008, the joint Bureau and the joint session of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission, the secretariat was requested to prepare a gap analysis and present proposals for its future activities on forests and climate change.

13. A note including a proposal for a UNECE/FAO strategy on forests and climate change was prepared by the secretariat and presented to the Bureau in April 2009, for their consideration and advice.

14. In its note, the secretariat:

- (a) Identified countries' needs in the field of forests and climate change. These include:
 - (i) objective and relevant information directed to policymakers;
 - (ii) capacity building within forest institutions; and
 - (iii) better communication between sectoral policymaking processes.
- (b) Prepared an overview of ongoing activities on forests and climate change carried out by intergovernmental organizations, research organizations, environmental NGOs and private sector organizations. This overview is available at the website of the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission, and will be linked to a "forest and climate change" page of the website which is presently under development. Based on this overview, it could be noted that emphasis had been given in the past to questions of mitigation, notably carbon sequestration and reducing deforestation. Adaptation, as well as harvested wood products and the substitution of carbon intensive materials and fuels, have received so far less attention, although this is changing rapidly.
- (c) Analysed the existing UNECE/FAO climate relevant activities. Many activities, even if they do not specifically address climate change, contribute to information and analysis of forest sector climate change issues. These include:
 - (i) providing data on forest resources, products and policies;
 - (ii) organising forums and workshops on issues related to bioenergy, wood supply and mobilisation, green building, etc.;
 - (iii) communicating these topics to a broad public.
- (d) identified the comparative advantage of UNECE/FAO in the field of climate change, including:
 - (i) considerable experience concerning climate change related topics, in particular downstream issues such as wood energy, wood supply and mobilisation;
 - (ii) "ownership" of databases and related expertise;

- (iii) ability to put climate change issues into a general forest sector context, alongside other issues concerning sector policymakers
- (iv) Access to a wide range of specialist networks (e.g. forest inventory, markets, outlook, fires, private sector, etc.)
- (v) Secretariat experience in analysing trends, and bringing together a wide range of expertise
- (vi) Convening power for policy forums and other exchanges of experience and opinion
- (vii) Comprehensive scope of regular activities, combining forest and markets, technical, statistical and policy dimensions, and experience in drawing these together, notably in the context of sector outlook studies
- (viii) Access, though UNECE and other links, to expertise from outside the sector in the fields of energy, environment, etc.
- (ix) Good partnerships with other regional actors, intergovernmental, NGO and private sector.
- (x) A mandate which is broad and flexible enough to address new issues and challenges, if approach endorsed by parent bodies and resources provided.

15. Based on this analysis, the secretariat proposed the following 12 main lines of activities on forests and climate change (items requiring extrabudgetary funding and in-kind resources marked with an asterisk “*”):

- (a) Maintain the three relevant databases (forest resources, markets, policies and institutions) and when developing them, increase consistency among them and ensure that they are useful for climate change analysis, and publicize them better to climate change experts. The networks involved in supplying and reviewing this data, e.g. the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management should consider improving it, where possible, and making the information useful for climate change policymakers. Data could be better marketed, for example, by developing a guide to the climate change relevant data in the different database, and how it could be used, and providing easier access to this information on the website.
- (b) Continue to monitor climate change policy and its relation with the forest sector in the *Forest Products Annual Market Review*, and introduce a regular chapter on the carbon markets, assuming this is technically and economically possible.
- (c) Design the next Forest Sector Outlook Study to address major issues connected with climate change, along with other topical issues. While climate change needs to be an integral component of a future outlook, this requires improving the present forest resource models to take account of climate change projections and

- forecasts, and linked issues such as bioenergy, requiring significant investments in terms of timing and expertise
- (d) Continue to promote understanding of the main climate change issues for the forest sector by making it easier to find relevant outputs on the programme website: a special explanation and links section on climate change similar to that which is available already on wood energy. This activity is already underway and is expected to be completed by the Timber Committee session.
 - (e) Continue to produce articles, presentations, papers, brochures, etc, addressed to policymakers or a wider audience. This could encompass policy briefs* on specific subjects which build on programme expertise and activities, e.g. on green building, wood energy, the cascaded use of wood products and others. However, the preparation of policy briefs is an activity which would require extra-budgetary funding and cannot be done with existing programme resources.
 - (f) Continue the activities on bioenergy, wood mobilisation and potential wood supply, all of which contribute to the climate change discussion.
 - (g) If funds are available, organise capacity building workshops on climate change issues in eastern Europe and central Asia*, to help governments develop climate change policies which are consistent with sustainable forest management. Such policies should ensure that the forest sector makes the optimum contribution to mitigating climate change, whether by carbon sequestration, carbon storage in forests or products, or substitution. National forest programmes should specifically address climate change issues.
 - (h) Challenge all UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists to address aspects of climate change in their areas of competence. At a meeting of the Bureaux with the leaders of all Teams on 2 April 2009 in Geneva, all Teams reported on their climate change-related activities and synergies were identified.
 - (i) Ensure that adaptation is addressed by forest sector policies (but do not address adaptation issues at the technical level, with the exception of some elements of forest monitoring). This could be done by addressing adaptation at the next FAO European Forestry Commission session, April 2010, and by raising awareness of forest sector policymakers of the choices at forums and pointing to the relevant information and experts.
 - (j) Communicate UNECE/FAO climate change analysis to partners and other sectors, so that they are used appropriately. This could be done by tapping in a more targeted way into the networks of other sectors, in particular the environmental community and the networks of other UNECE Divisions.
 - (k) Develop activities on harvested wood products, according to the recommendations of the workshop on September 2008, provided this issue remains in serious consideration in the UNFCCC negotiations.

- (l) Develop further work on green building, by working jointly with the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Committee on Sustainable Energy and their secretariats. This has been done through contribution of forest sector representatives to workshops such as the UNECE Workshop on Energy Efficiency in Housing, Sofia, March 2009, and the green building workshop in the context of the Timber Committee session on 12 October 2009 (see UNECE/TIM/2009/2). Additional collaboration is planned for 2010. If extrabudgetary funding becomes available, a policy brief could also be dedicated to the issue.

16. The Bureaux approved the above 12 main lines for UNECE/FAO activities on forests and climate change proposed by the secretariat. The proposed activities on forests and climate change are aligned with FAO's strategic directions on forests and climate change as well as the Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)¹.

17. The Committee is invited to review, discuss and approve the future UNECE/FAO activities on forests and climate change, on the basis of the 12 lines of activities set out above.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-climatechange>.

Annex I

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION AND UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE TIMBER COMMITTEE**

INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON TIMBER AND FORESTRY

**List of projected outputs 2009-2010,
by programme element of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013**

1. Work area 1 - Markets and Statistics
Programme elements
1.1 Collecting, validating and disseminating statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products
1.1.1 Statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products, including certified products, for 2009 (collection, validation, publication)
1.2 Analysis of markets for forest products, notably topical and policy relevant aspects, including <i>Forest Products Annual Market Review</i> and annual Timber Committee Market Discussions
1.2.1 UNECE/FAO <i>Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2009-2010</i>
1.2.2 UNECE Timber Committee Market Discussions, October 2010
1.2.3 Proceedings of Joint UNECE/FAO Policy Forum (to be determined)
1.2.3 Meeting of Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing
1.3 Implementing sustainable forest management through capacity building for forest products marketing
1.3.1 Workshop on forest products marketing, Slovenia, 2010
1.4 Monitoring and analysis of markets and policies for certified wood products, including public procurement and green building
1.4.1 UNECE conference on "Green building and climate change: From science to policies," Canada, April 2010
1.5 Collecting and disseminating forest fire statistics
<i>(Separate collection of forest fire statistics temporarily suspended, in the absence of resources. Collection of forest fire data through FRA 2010 and quantitative indicators for sustainable forest management)</i>
2. Work area 2 - Forest resources assessment
Programme elements
2.1 Collecting, validating and disseminating information according to criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management
2.2 Regional contribution to FAO Forest Resource Assessment 2010
2.2.1 National data collection and validation for the <i>Global FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2010</i>
2.3 Implementing sustainable forest management through support to developing national systems for forest monitoring*
2.3.1 Workshop for Forest Resources Assessment national correspondents, 2010

2.4 Improving information on forest types
2.4.1 Report on Forest Types
2.5 Reporting on and analysis of the state of forests in the UNECE region
2.5.1 Meetings of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, and the Advisory Group on the next Report on the State of Forests in Europe
2.5.2 Conference on “Future forest monitoring in the European Union”, Sweden, November 2009
2.6 Monitoring and analyzing forest ownership and tenure
2.6.1 Publication on private forest ownership in Europe
3. Work area 3 – Forest sector outlook
Programme elements
3.1 Preparing European Forest Sector Outlook Studies
3.1.1 Meetings of Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook and Core Group to prepare for next <i>European Forest Outlook Study</i>
3.2 Contribution to FAO State of the World’s Forests Report
3.2.3 European regional contribution in 2010
3.3 Analysing climate change issues relevant to the forest sector
3.3.1 New section on website on forests and climate change, with links to relevant activities
3.4 Analysing energy-related issues, including demand and supply for wood energy
3.4.1 Discussion paper on results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2.007
3.4.2 Workshop “Policy options for wood energy”, 17-20 November, Croatia
3.5 Collecting, validating, and disseminating information and analysis of wood availability and potential wood supply
3.5.1 Publication on wood resource balance 2005
3.5.2 Publication “Good practice guidance on sustainable wood mobilization”
4. Work area 4 - Social and cultural issues
Programme elements
4.1 Implementing sustainable forest management through promoting occupational safety and health
4.1.1 Meeting of the Joint UNECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network on Implementing Sustainable Forest Management
4.2 Implementing sustainable forest management through promoting best practice in forest education and training
4.2.1 Meeting of the Joint UNECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network on Implementing Sustainable Forest Management
4.3 Monitoring trends as regards gender and forestry
4.3.1 Follow-up to Conference on Gender and Forestry, Umea, Sweden, June 2009
4.4 Implementing sustainable forest management through promoting best practice for forest contractors
4.4.1 Dissemination and Implementation of Guidelines on Good Practices in Contract Labour in Forestry
5. Work area 5 - Policy and cross sectoral issues
Programme elements
5.1 Contribution to the global dialogue on forests
5.1.1 Contribution to COFO 2010
5.2 Monitoring recent developments in forest sector policies, legislation and institutions,

including national forest programmes
5.2.1 National data collection for the next State of Europe's Forests report: qualitative indicators of sustainable forest management
5.2.2 National data collection and validation for the <i>Global FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2010</i> (policies, legislation, institutions)
5.2.3 Information repository on policies and institutions in Europe, comprising the pan-European qualitative indicators for sustainable forest management (pilot version)
5.3 Analysing developments in forest sector policies, legislation and institutions, including interactions with other sectors
5.3.1 Update discussion paper "International Forest Sector Institutions and Policy Instruments: A sourcebook," online reference source
5.4 Implementing sustainable forest management through capacity building for forest policies and institutions*
5.4.1 Meeting of Team of Specialists on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, possibly workshop on "country experiences and needs" (if funding available)
5.5 Organizing policy forums on major topical issues
5.5.1 Joint UNECE/FAO Policy Forum 2010
5.6 Exchanging information on improving management of wildland fires
5.6.1 Publication of two issues per year of "UNECE/FAO International Forest Fire News"
5.6.2 Meeting of Team of Specialists on Forest Fire
5.7 Improving sectoral and cross-sectoral exchange and communication
5.7.1 Meeting of Forest Communicators Network (<i>Ongoing activities and exchange with other UNECE committees and organizations</i>)
5.8 Producing forest and forest products country profiles* (<i>Temporarily suspended, following discussion with the Bureaux of alternative options</i>)
6. Sessions of intergovernmental bodies
Programme elements
6.1 FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, Thirty-second session, Geneva, 2010
6.2 European Forestry Commission, Thirty-fourth session, Portugal, 19-24 April 2010
6.3 UNECE Timber Committee, Sixty-eighth session, Geneva, 11-15 October 2010

* Elements marked with an asterisk imply that extra-budgetary funding is required.

Annex II

**PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE PERIOD 2012-2013
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE SUBPROGRAMME 7**

TIMBER AND FORESTRY**I. OBJECTIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

1. To strengthen the forest sector and its contribution to sustainable development throughout the UNECE region.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased understanding, based on better monitoring of sustainable forest management, encompassing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) policies and institutions; (ii) forest resources; (iii) sound use of wood, for material and energy purposes, in domestic and export markets; and (iv) the outlook for the sector in a broader, cross-sectoral context. 	(a) Indicators are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) percentage of UNECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on qualitative indicators of sustainable forest management (ii) percentage of UNECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management (iii) percentage of UNECE countries able to provide satisfactory responses to the UNECE/FAO/International Tropical Timber Organization/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire (which monitors the sound use of wood) (iv) percentage of policy makers and other stakeholders regarding selected policy forums and workshops as useful
(b) Increased capacity of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-East Europe to achieve sustainable forest management at the national level	(b) Percentage of participants of capacity building activities regarding them as useful

II. STRATEGY

2. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Trade and Timber Division, Timber Section. The subprogramme will aim at developing and applying analytical and monitoring tools, both on policy and on developments on the ground, collecting, validating and disseminating information and analysis, as well as stimulating the exchange of experience, best practice and joint efforts to measure progress. The subprogramme will provide a platform for topical discussions, taking into account the changing policy environment, notably as regards climate change and bioenergy. It will promote the role of forests in mitigating and adapting to climate change. While all countries benefit from international cooperation through the subprogramme, the subprogramme will pay special attention to the countries of eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Mediterranean region.

3. The subprogramme will promote sustainable management of forests as well as the sound and legal use of forest products, for raw material and energy, and forest services, based on appropriate policies and institutions. Priorities for 2012-2013 will be guided by the outcome of the 6th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, as well as the continued effort to address climate change, as requested by member States and stakeholders through the Strategic Review 2008.

4. While all countries benefit from international cooperation through the subprogramme, special attention will be paid to the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Mediterranean region to implement sustainable forest management through capacity building activities and promoting their involvement in international activities in the region.

5. As part of the strategy to implement the subprogramme, UNECE will carry out its work in cooperation with FAO and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and provide regional input to the United Nations Forum on Forests and the FAO Committee on Forestry.

6. To support forest management, including the use of wood and forest products, that is sustainable from the ecological, economic and social point of view, it is necessary to maintain a good balance between those three aspects, based on a strong consensus about goals and methods among all stakeholders, as well as to ensure that the strategy is well integrated into the policy framework of other sectors (the cross-sectoral approach). Achieving sustainable forest management is primarily a sovereign national responsibility. However, regional international cooperation, and inter-regional cooperation, through the timber and forestry subprogramme and its partners, will contribute by developing and disseminating concepts and information, through communication, sharing experience and defining standard measurement tools (indicators) for sustainable forest management. At the same time, the impacts of global developments will be taken into account at the regional level.

III. LEGISLATIVE MANDATES

General Assembly resolutions

54/218 Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly

61/193 International Year of Forests, 2011

62/98 Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

ECOSOC resolutions

2006/38 Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
