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**Meeting with the Chair of the Committee on Forests
and the Forest Industry**

Report by the Chair

Report by the Chair of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

1. The Chair of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, Ms. Maria Sokolenko (Russian Federation) is pleased to submit her report to the 112th meeting of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) on 14 December 2020.

I. Introduction

2. This report describes key achievements of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW) 2018-2021 (ECE/TIM/2017/2– FO:EFC/2017/2), which was adopted by the joint session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the European Forestry Commission (EFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in October 2017 in Warsaw, Poland (Las2017). In addition, this report will highlight areas and trends that will shape future activities. More information is contained in the report of seventy-eighth session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, which was held from 4 to 6 November 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland, and is contained in document ECE/TIM/2020/2. In response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic the formal session allowed for extensive online participation on an exceptional basis. The annual meeting of the Committee focused on forests in a Decade of Action and on how forests and the forest sector can contribute to the post-pandemic recovery.

II. Achievements since the last session

3. Since the last EXCOM meeting, the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section (hereafter Joint Section) coordinated, organized and supported data collection on forests, forest management and the forest industry, in support of evidence-based decision-making, and provided assistance to member States for improving the forest sector in the region through coordinated activities of communication and capacity-building.

4. The Joint Section started the Strategic Review process to assess the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work. More than 60 stakeholders provided their feedback through a survey developed in collaboration with the Joint Bureaux of the UNECE COFFI and the FAO EFC. In addition, an informal discussion with member States was organized on 18 June 2020, providing the opportunity for feedback and ideas. Both the survey and the informal discussion were taken into consideration in the development of elements for the new IPoW 2022-2025, which was presented during the 78th session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry.

5. A more detailed listing of key deliverables and events of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and its secretariat (2020) is contained in Annex I of this document.

6. Key activities and related impact (reported according to the Work Areas (WA) of the WIPoW include:

A. WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment:

7. The Joint Section coordinated, organized and supported data collection on forest resources, forest products markets and wood energy in the UNECE region.

1. Highlighted outputs

- The “*Forest Products Annual Market Review 2019-2020*”, which was published in the autumn of 2020: a comprehensive analysis of market developments relevant to member States in 2019 and 2020 and forecast of possible market trends in 2020 and 2021. The bark beetle infestation in Central Europe and the impacts on forest products markets were a major topic in this year’s assessment.
- Eight bilingual (English/Russian) studies on the state of forests and forest management in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Input to the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and the pan-European reporting on forests and sustainable forest management, which were finalized in 2020. Both processes were coordinated and carried out by FAO, UNECE and Forest Europe, with the participation of other forest-related organizations. The global and regional data have been made available through two online platforms:
 - (a) The repository of FRA 2020 data for the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) in cooperation with FAO and other CFRQ partners, and
 - (b) The interactive database for the Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests, created in collaboration the FAO FRA secretariat and the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava.
- Study on “*Who owns our forests? Forest ownership in the ECE region*” and the related online data platform on forest ownership in the UNECE region (https://w3.unece.org/PXWeb2015/pxweb/en/STAT/STAT__26-TMSTAT1__080-FO17_FO). Both products provide the first ever insight and related data on all forest ownership categories, their organization and management.
- Study on “*Forest Product Conversion Factors*”, a comprehensive study covering 37 containing information on the ratios of raw material input to the output of wood-based forest product. This was done in cooperation with the FAO and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

2. Impact

8. Increased percentage of UNECE member States able to provide satisfactory data on qualitative and quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management – with 50 out of 56 countries of the UNECE reporting on their forests and forest management to FRA and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators. As a result, the subprogramme contributed to increasing the capacity of countries to report on the achievement of Global Forest Goal 1 of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and SDG 15.

B. WA2: Policy advice and dialogue:

1. Highlighted outputs

- National Forest Policy Dialogue in Kazakhstan on 4 March 2020 to collect input from national stakeholders and international experts and update the “Master Plan for the development of the Forest Sector of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030” and action plan for its implementation. Committee on Forestry and Wildlife of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of

Kazakhstan coordinated the development of both documents, with support of the Joint Section that provided policy advice and revised both documents.

- Study on “*Forest Sector Workforce in the ECE region*”, which underlines the need for a shift in the public perception of the forest sector as of one that offers modern career paths and opportunities for women, young people and minorities. The launch of the study was accompanied by a webinar.
- Servicing of, and support to, the new Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests. The team held its first meeting virtually on 21 October 2020, bringing together a range of boreal-related research organizations and policy-makers from seven countries that will be working together to compile a research compendium on boreal forest related issues and produce policy-relevant documents.
- Online capacity building workshop on forest sector outlook modelling for participants from Russia on 17-18 November 2020. 14 speakers from different UNECE countries and organizations provided insights in their modelling approaches and how results can be used to inform stakeholders on the possible impact of different policy choices on the forest sector.

2. Impact

- The National Forest Policy Dialogue in Kazakhstan led to the development of a new National Master Plan for development of the forest sector for 10 years and action plan for its implementation for five years for the country, which provides a sound legal basis for forest management and ensures the development of institutional capacities.

C. WA3: Communications and outreach:

1. Highlighted outputs

- The webinar SDG 15 Day: Focus on forests in the ‘super year’ for nature and beyond featured a roundtable moderated by member State representatives and provided an opportunity for UN agencies and partner organizations to discuss progress on achieving forest related targets of SDG15 in the UNECE region. 20 speakers from academia, the private sector, non-governmental and international organizations, shared their views on innovative scalable solutions to climate change through afforestation and ecosystem restoration, financing nature restoration, and partnerships for SDG15.
- Events planned to celebrate the International Day of Forests (IDF) on 21 March 2020 were cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, under the IDF theme “Forests and Biodiversity” the Joint Section, in collaboration with the Russian Geographical Society and the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations in Geneva, organized an exhibition titled “Forest biodiversity: too precious to lose” from 2 to 12 November 2020 in the Passerelle of the Palais of Nations. Due to the restrictions on attendance caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, the exhibition is also available in virtual format (<https://unitednations.rgo.ru/>).
- The Trees and Cities Challenge, a voluntary initiative aimed at mayors and corresponding urban authorities in cities across the world to locally take action to combat climate change and foster urban sustainability and resilience, has seen an increase of commitments by cities around the world from just half a million to over 10 million trees in 2020.

2. Impact

- Under the Trees in Cities Challenge, mayors have already committed to planting more than 10 million trees in over 20 different cities, including Bonn (Germany), Helsingborg (Sweden), Tirana (Albania), Barcarena (Brazil) and Victoria (Canada). The initiative will be extended through 2021.
- The SDG 15 Day webinar attracted over 120 participants from across the UNECE region, resulting in cross-sectoral knowledge exchange. Participants made concrete proposals on how to step up joint delivery in light of financial and other challenges associated with the post COVID-19 recovery.

D. WA4: Capacity-building:

9. The Joint Section's work on capacity-building aims to enhance the ability of specific countries and the UNECE region as a whole to implement sustainable forests management practices, collect relevant data, monitor and analyze forest conditions as well as promote the engagement of national experts from the region. Moreover, work was undertaken to promote forest landscape restoration. In this regard, outputs included:

1. Highlighted outputs

- All five target countries of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia", namely Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan developed national sets of criteria and indicators (C&I) for sustainable forest management, methodologies for data collection and plans for further implementation of the C&I at the national level. National experts from project countries presented accomplishments during the 78th session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, held virtually from 4 to 6 November 2020.
- In support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration starting in 2021 and in preparation for the Ministerial Roundtable on forest landscape restoration and the ECCA30/Bonn Challenge for Eastern and South-East Europe planned for spring 2021, a series of virtual meetings were held, including a webinar on Financing Forest Landscape Restoration (16 July 2020).
- In the Conference on Forest Monitoring and Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia (9 December 2020) five project countries of the UNECE/FAO, UNDA project "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia" (2016-2020) exchanged knowledge and experience on the application of C&I in various areas. Furthermore, countries presented national efforts on forest landscape restoration, and exchanged experience.

2. Impact

- Tailored methodologies for data collection for national criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management were developed for Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.
- Five policy briefs were developed on the following topics: Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management and Guidelines for its development on the national level; Criteria and indicators and decision making (Monitoring,

Assessment and Reporting); Criteria and Indicators and Forest Policy and Management Support Information Systems (FPMSIS); Criteria and indicators and National Forest Inventory; Criteria and indicators and forest-related communication.

III. Major activities planned for 2021 and beyond

10. The following planned activities highlight key themes that address some of the major challenges facing the forestry sector.
11. The Joint Section continue the Strategic Review process to assess the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work by further developing the proposal for the IPoW for 2022-2025.
12. A more detailed listing of activities is provided in the Approved List of Activities for 2021 in Annex II of this document.

A. WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment:

13. The Joint Section will strengthen data dissemination of statistics on forest resources, products, functions and services by producing a website on forest and forest sector data in the UNECE region. The website intends to serve as knowledge hub about forests and forest sector in the region, addressed in particular to audiences outside the forest sector.
14. Focused analysis will be devoted to the monitoring of forest biotic and abiotic disturbances, and their impact on forests, forest management and provision of forest products and services. Changing climate and high anthropogenic pressure poses increasing threat to forest ecosystem, learning about scale of disturbance and its relevance is of essential importance for developing strategies and measures for protecting forest and decreasing their vulnerability.
15. Publication of a study “*National Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in Caucasus and Central Asia*”. The publication will summarize results of the Section’s capacity building work in the region and provide technical recommendations and guidance for the further development of forest monitoring and information systems.

B. WA2: Policy advice and dialogue:

16. The Joint Section will facilitate National Forest Policy Dialogue to support revision of the Forest Code in Uzbekistan. Revised forest code will serve as strategic documents for the forest sector at national level (*to be confirmed, upon availability of funds*).
17. The UNECE/FAO Forest Sector Outlook Study in the UNECE region will be published, providing a comprehensive policy outlook for the forest sector, including trends and challenges up to the year 2040.
18. The Joint Section will work with countries of the region on the further development of the Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening Infrastructure in Central Asia and the Caucasus.
19. As boreal forests globally face increasing challenges due to climate change and human impacts, the Joint Section will service a new Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests. The new team will contribute to and streamline science and policy cooperation

on boreal forests, increase collaboration with the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) and other boreal-related research organizations, improve awareness of the boreal forests' global role in issues such as climate change and a circular bioeconomy, and advise the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on boreal forest matters.

C. WA3: Communications and outreach:

20. Communications activities will be focused on promoting the potential of sustainable wood products in a circular bioeconomy across sectors through the organization of events and exhibitions.

21. In addition, the Trees in Cities Challenge will showcase cities' progress on their tree-planting pledges on a dedicated website (<https://treesincities.unece.org/>) and through international fora, encouraging other urban leaders around the world to take concrete local action through the initiative. The campaign was initially planned until the end of 2020 but has been extended until end of 2021.

22. The International Day of Forests will be celebrated under the theme "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being" on 22 March 2021, back to back with the 42nd session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forests Statistics, Economics and Management.

D. WA4: Capacity-building:

23. The United Nations General Assembly declared 2021–2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, aiming to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight the climate crisis and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity. The Joint Section will support the effort through:

- Technical workshops on forest landscape restoration and afforestation, and the organization of a Ministerial Roundtable on forest landscape restoration and the ECCA30/Bonn Challenge for Eastern and South-East Europe.
- Supporting countries under the ECCA30 initiative by providing a platform for policy dialogue and advice, and by delivering capacity building related to forest landscape restoration, data improvement, and forest resource assessment.
- A virtual capacity-building workshop on forest products statistics targeted at Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and western Balkans.
- Further capacity building events in the area of forest sector outlook modelling.

IV. Any proposed change to the subsidiary structure of the Committee

24. No changes to the subsidiary structure were proposed by the previous session of COFFI.

V. Inter-sectoral activities: new activities and/or progress in existing inter-sectoral activities

25. The Joint Section continued intersectoral cooperation with other UNECE and FAO units as well as external organizations and processes. For instance:

- Through the UNECE Nexus Team on ‘Sustainable use of natural resources’, including development a flagship publication, the Joint Section contributes to strengthen synergies within the organization and thereby scale up efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Joint Section together with the Liaison Unit Bratislava of Forest Europe finalized the “Guidelines on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector”.
- The Joint Section cooperates with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Bank on the topic of forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge and ECCA30.

VI. Technical cooperation activities

26. An exhaustive table of capacity-building activities undertaken by the secretariat under the Committee is presented in the secretariat’s report as contained in Annex I of this document.

VII. Cooperation with other organizations

27. The Joint Section has been effectively cooperating with a number of stakeholders in the implementation of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work. Some of the highlights include:

- The pan-European reporting on forests and sustainable forest management is done as a collective effort of UNECE, FAO and Forest Europe. This includes technical guidance and training to correspondents from Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and processing and disseminating collected data. At the global level UNECE cooperates with FAO through the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) – an initiative of regional organizations (UNECE, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Central African Forest Commission and ITTO) closely collaborating with FAO in collecting national data.
- The Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics coordinates the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire amongst the 4 participating organizations: ECE/FAO, Eurostat, International Tropical Timber Organization and FAO. Each of the organizations is responsible for circulating the questionnaire to those countries for which it is responsible. Results of the questionnaire are provided to the partner organizations as needed. Each organization publishes these results according to its mandate and needs. We are grateful to our partners for their dedication and cooperation in producing the best forest products statistics possible.
- The Joint Section continues to cooperate with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava and contributes to many actions of the Forest Europe Work Programme, including support to the development of a report on the State of Europe’s Forests, joint development of the interactive data platforms, and work on green jobs and ecosystem services.

- The Joint Section, with the encouragement of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, and in collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Food and Agriculture Organization and the European Commission (EC) will conduct the next round of the "Joint Wood Energy Enquiry", which aims at improving knowledge and understanding of wood energy production and consumption. Improving data reporting on wood energy has led to a better understanding of future prospects for wood energy in the region.
- The Joint Section is an active member of the Steering Committee of the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion in order to continue to promote the use of sustainable forest fibers in the garment sector. Members of the Steering Committee include representatives from: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, International Trade Centre, FAO, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP), International Labour Organization (ILO) and Global Compact. In this context, the Joint Section has shared outcomes of the work on sustainable forest fibers during a webinar on 1 October 2020.
- In the implementation of the UNDA capacity-building project on “Accountability systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia,” the Joint Section collaborates with partners from the United Nations system to carry out on-the-ground actions at the national level, delivering as one, working with UNDP and FAO country offices and with other organizations, such as the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).
- The Joint Section supports international work and cooperation on monitoring of forest resources and sustainable forest management, including the European Union (i.e. Eurostat, the European Economic Area and the Joint Research Centre), the Montreal process and other organizations (i.e., the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests, and the European Forest Institute) in this area.
- One of the outcomes of previous strategic reviews called for increased interaction with the private sector. For this reason, the Joint Section has invited the private sector to panel discussions and roundtables such as the SDG15 day, which took place on 2 November 2020, and at the 78th session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry from 4 to 6 November 2020.
- Finally, it should be noted that COFFI and the Joint Section functions provide important opportunities for collaboration between member States, international organizations, formal or informal working groups, private sector firms, academia and scientists throughout the UNECE region. The Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests and its ability to build an interface between the science and policy community is a case in point.

Annex I

Key deliverables and events of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and its secretariat (2020)

A. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

1. Forest resources

(a) 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

- Finalization of the final repository of FRA data for the 2020 reporting cycle of the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): cooperation with FAO and other CFRQ partners;
- Production of the interactive database coordinated with the FRA repository for the Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests (jointly with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava, in coordination with the FAO FRA secretariat);
- Review of collection process, national questionnaire on forest ownership in the ECE region;
- Production of a website on forest and forest sector data in the ECE countries.

(b) 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 and the impact of biotic and abiotic disturbances: review of formats for national reporting on forest disturbance; overview (based on existing data) of the extent and trends of forest damage;
- Supported FAO FRA secretariat in the finalization and dissemination of the main outputs from the 2020 reporting cycle of the Global FRA and CFRQ;
- Supported the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava and the FAO FRA secretariat in the finalization and dissemination of the main outputs from the Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests;
- Publication of a study “State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia” in Russian and English;
- Publication of 8 bilingual (English and Russian) electronic studies on the state of forests and forest management in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan;
- Publication of a study “Who owns our forests? Forest ownership in the ECE region”;
- Publication of a study “Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set for Sustainable Forest Management” in English and Russian;
- Publication of a study “National Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in Caucasus and Central Asia”.

(c) Cooperation with, and support to, international processes in Sustainable Forest Management, 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;
- Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe, European Environment Agency) in the region on monitoring SFM;
- Contribution to capacity building on C&Is under the UNDA project (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan);
- Organization of meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM.

2. Forest products and markets

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products

- Issuance of Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (with Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics) and Timber Forecast Questionnaire;
- 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.

(b) 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 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.

(c) 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 ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics and the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products;
- Co-published a guide on Forest Products Conversion Factors with FAO and ITTO.

3. Wood energy

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy

- Preparation and issuance of the 2019 Joint Wood Energy Enquiry;
- Dissemination of the 2017 JWEE data at relevant international meetings;
- Increasing the visibility of ECE wood energy data.

(b) Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand for, and supply of, wood energy

- Provided input on forests to the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews.

(c) 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 a webinar of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Wood Energy on “The Drax Biomass Carbon Calculator – background, scope and functionalities”, virtual, 11 June 2020.

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

(a) National Forest Policy Dialogues

- Organization of the National Forest Policy Dialogue for Kazakhstan to review the “Master Plan for the development of the Forest Sector of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030” and action plan for its implementation, Nur-Sultan, 4 March 2020;
- Monitoring of developments in global and regional forest policy processes (UNFF; Forest Europe, SDG) and contributions, as relevant, to these processes;
- Support to the continued implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests through organization of policy dialogues at the regional and national level;
- Support to the development of the Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening the Infrastructure in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

(b) The role of the forest sector in a circular bio-economy

- Preparing a stock-taking document on how the circular bio-economy concepts are related to the forest-based sector;
- Exploring the issue of wood-based value chains in a circular bio-economy;
- Promotion and dissemination of findings on the social dimension of the circular and bio-economy:
 - Study on the “Forest Sector Workforce in the ECE region”;
 - “Guidelines on the promotion of green jobs in forestry”.

(c) Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under Work Areas 1, 3 and 4

(d) Forest Sector Outlook

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook;
- Publication and dissemination of the Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region planned for early 2021;
- Organization of a capacity building activity in the area of forest sector outlook modelling.

(e) Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policymaking for the forest sector

- Organization of a virtual follow-up meeting on the implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration in support of the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia, as part of the Conference on Forest Monitoring and Restoration (planned for 9 December 2020).

(f) Boreal Forests

- Organization of a preparatory meeting for the first official meeting of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialist on Boreal Forests in Geneva, Switzerland (23 April 2020);
- Organization of the first official meeting of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests online (21 October 2020).

(g) Tools for policymaking - studies and publications

- Publication and dissemination of the study paper on “Forest Landscape Restoration in support of the Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe” to support the preparation of restoration pledges in seventeen countries of Eastern and South-East Europe region in the run up to the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration in support of the Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe, which will take place in March 2021;
- Publication and dissemination of information on the “National Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in Central Asia and the Caucasus”.
- Five policy briefs on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management and Guidelines for its development on the national level; Criteria and indicators and decision making (Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting); Criteria and Indicators and Forest Policy and Management Support Information Systems (FPMSIS); Criteria and indicators and National Forest Inventory; Criteria and indicators and forest-related communication.

C. 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), 21 March 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19 outbreak were to take place on the margins of COFFI 2020). Under the IDF theme “Forests and Biodiversity” the Joint Section, in collaboration with the Russian Geographical Society and the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations in Geneva, organized an exhibition titled “Forest biodiversity: too precious to lose” from 2 to 12 November 2020 in the Passerelle of the Palais of

Nations. Due to the restrictions on attendance caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, the exhibition is also available in virtual format (<https://unitednations.rgo.ru/>);

- Presentation of work related to Forest Landscape Restoration at the annual meeting of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration;
- Communicating the potential of sustainable wood products in the circular bio-economy across sectors through organization of events and exhibitions;
- Communication campaigns (e.g. Trees in Cities Challenge, Forests for Fashion initiative, 5th European Forest Week);
- Organization of panel discussion to raise awareness on forest landscape restoration during the COFFI 2020.

(b) Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information is released

- Press releases published in 2020 (as of 17 November 2020): “Turkmenistan’s 2.2 million pledge to the Trees in Cities Challenge bring the initiative to over 10 million trees (20 March 2020); “NATURE UNLOCKED: UNECE launches global photo contest showing flora and fauna during lockdown to celebrate World Environment Day (05 June 2020)”; “Forest area in UNECE region continues to increase, says FAO report, but greater efforts needed to protect these fragile ecosystems” (24 July 2020); “UNECE/FAO studies contribute to sustainable management of precious forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia” (24 July 2020); “Improving diversity and public perception of forest sector workforce for green recovery” (11 November 2020); “UNECE supports five countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia to develop national sets of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management” (12 November 2020).
- News releases published in 2020 (as of 17 November 2020): “UNECE and FAO support Kazakhstan’s development of forest sector Master Plan” (04 March 2020); Turkmenistan’s 2.2 million pledge to the Trees in Cities Challenge brings the initiative to over 10 million trees (20 March 2020); “Exploring financing options for forest landscape restoration” (11 August 2020); “UNECE, FAO, and the Russian Geographical Society launch virtual exhibition on forest biodiversity” (5 November 2020).
- Dissemination of information and promotion of the following publications through press releases, social media posts etc: “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”, “National Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”, online bilingual (English/Russian) studies on state of forests in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan.

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

(a) Forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge

- Ongoing work to organize a regional meeting to follow-up on the implementation of the Bonn Challenge commitments in the Caucasus and Central Asia (planned for November 2020);

- Virtual meetings were held to share knowledge, exchange experiences and discuss funding opportunities related to Forest Landscape Restoration with representatives from Eastern and South-East Europe.

(b) Organization of capacity-building workshops

- Planning and organizing a capacity building workshop for national correspondents on wood energy (Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2019);
- Organization of a capacity building workshop for national correspondents on forest products statistics (JFSQ) in coordination with FAO. Planned for November 2020 in Belgrade, Serbia.
- Online capacity building workshop on forest sector outlook modelling for participants from Russia on 17-18 November 2020.

(c) Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialist on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector.

(d) Implementation of the UN Development Account (UNDA) project: Accountability systems for SFM in the Caucasus and Central Asia (2016-2020):

- Regional meeting for the Caucasus and Central Asia to strengthen capacity on data collection for indicators on Sustainable Forest Management (planned for November 2020); Regional meeting for the Caucasus and Central Asia to strengthen capacity on data collection for indicators on Sustainable Forest Management, as part of the virtual Conference on Forest Monitoring and Restoration (Planned for 9 December 2020);
- Planning and organizing virtual meetings to support the development of country-specific methodologies for data collection for national sets of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management;
- Support to the development of factsheets for indicators under the national set of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management;
- Development of the publication on “National Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”.

E. Monitoring and management of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work

(a) Intergovernmental Meetings

- Organization of the seventy-eighth session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in Geneva, Switzerland (4-6 November 2020).

(b) Bureaux Meetings

- Organization of Bureaux meetings on the strategic review process of the IPoW and preparation of the COFFI session, virtual (22 April 2020, 20 May 2020, 30 October).

(c) Strategic review 2020

- Completion and dissemination of the Strategic Review survey analysis;

- Assessment of work and outputs by the Secretariat;
- Informal consultation about a preliminary analysis of survey results with Joint Bureaux and member States held virtually on 18 June 2020;
- The Secretariat's first draft of the new IPoW was completed and the summary of survey results shared with Joint Bureaux and member States.

Annex II: Approved list of activities for 2021

A. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

1. Forest resources

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services, progress toward Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy

- Reporting on the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): cooperation with the FAO and other CFRQ partners on the analysis of the 2020 reporting process and preparations for the next reporting cycle;
- Joint pan-European reporting on forests: cooperation with Forest Europe and FAO FRA secretariat on the analysis of the 2020 reporting process and preparations for the next reporting cycle;
- Dissemination of the results of the 2020 global and the pan-European reporting on forests and SFM;
- Dissemination of information on national forest data banks in ECE member States.

(b) 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 conditions and the impact of biotic and abiotic disturbances; thematic study and review of formats for international reporting on forest disturbances - continuation of the project.

(c) Cooperation with, and support to, international processes in SFM, including regional criteria and indicator (C&I) processes

- Participation in the FAO FRA Advisory Group;
- Support to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) secretariat on reporting the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030;
- Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe) in the ECE region on monitoring SFM;
- Contribution to capacity building on forest monitoring in countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and South-East Europe;
- Organization of the meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM.

2. Forest products and markets

(a) 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.

(b) 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 2020-2021;
- Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2020-2021;
- Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2021-2022;
- Preparation of the Market Discussion 2021 and the Market Statement 2021;
- Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings;

(c) 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 meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics and the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products.

3. Wood energy

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy

- Analysis of results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquire (JWEE) 2019;
- Issuance of a new database on wood energy with 2019 data;
- Dissemination of the 2019 JWEE data at relevant international meetings;

(b) Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand for, and supply of, wood energy

- Preparation of new information materials on wood energy, such as policy brief, short study, etc. on topics such as wood energy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), wood energy and climate change and wood energy and air quality;
- Input on forests to the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews.

(c) 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, World Sustainable Energy Days etc.);
- Organization of meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Wood Energy.

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

(a) Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under Work Areas 1, 3 and 4

- Organization of National Forest Policy Dialogues (NFPD) workshops in interested countries (Armenia, Turkmenistan and possibly others);
- Monitoring and 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

- Preparation of a stock-taking document on how the circular bio-economy concepts are related to the forest-based sector;
- Exploration of the issue of wood-based value chains in a circular bio-economy;
- Preparation of communication materials on the role of the forest sector in the circular bio-economy (e.g. video or brochure, depending on availability of funds);
- Promotion and dissemination of the social dimension of the circular bio-economy.

(c) Forest Sector Outlook

- Continuation of the dissemination of the Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region;
- Presentation of the results of the Forest Sector Outlook Study at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant stakeholders at national, regional and international levels;
- Organization of meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook;
- 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 in support of the Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South East Europe in Antalya, Turkey (May 2021);
- Organisation of a follow-up meeting for the Caucasus and Central Asia on Forest Landscape Restoration in the region.

(e) Boreal Forests

- Organization of meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests;
- Specific activities and outputs will be defined by the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests during its first meeting.

C. 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), 21 March 2021 (to be celebrated on 22 March 2021) Geneva, Switzerland;
- Side event at the sixteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF16), May 2021, New York, United States of America;
- Organizing awareness-raising events on the dissemination of information on ECCA30;
- Side event on Forest Landscape Restoration and ECCA30 at the IUCN World Congress, 7-15 January 2021, Marseille, France;
- Communicating the potential of forest landscape restoration in ECE region through various events and exhibitions;
- Communicating the potential of sustainable wood products in the circular bio-economy across sectors through various events and exhibitions;

- Communication campaigns (e.g. ECCA30, Trees in Cities Challenge, Forests for Fashion initiative).
- (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, including of the study on National Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia and Forest Landscape Restoration in Eastern and South-East Europe;
 - Promotion of the web page on forest-statistics.
- (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.

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

- (a) Forest landscape restoration:**
 - Capacity building on implementation of forest landscape restoration in the ECE region in support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (including commitments under the Bonn Challenge and national efforts in countries);
- (b) Organization of capacity-building workshops on:**
 - Capacity building workshop for national correspondents on wood energy (Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2019);
 - Capacity-building workshop on monitoring Sustainable Forest Management in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries;
 - Capacity building workshop on natural disturbances;
 - Capacity-building workshop on developing financing strategy for implementation of the Bonn Challenge commitments in Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia;
 - Organization of a capacity building event (s) on national forest sector modelling for experts from CIS countries.
- (c) Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector**
 - Organization of meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector.

E. Monitoring and management of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work

- (a) Intergovernmental Meetings**
 - Organization of the 42nd session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management in 2021;
 - Organization of the Joint Session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and European Forestry Commission in 2021.

(b) Bureaux Meetings

- Organization of the Joint COFFI and EFC Bureaux meetings upon request of the Chairs of COFFI and EFC.

(c) Strategic review 2020-2021

- Organization of consultations and workshop(s) on the review of the Warsaw Integrated Program of Work and drafting of the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025 and preparation of further drafts of the new Integrated Programme of Work.