



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Revision of the Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Documentation: [E/ECE/778/Rev.5](#), [ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/2](#), [ECE/TIM/2018/2](#) and [ECE/TIM/2019/2](#)



**42nd Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management**

22-24 March 2021, Geneva



Need for new RoP - Cause #1

Decision by the Economic Commission for Europe

FORESTS



- *“Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies”* adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe at the fifth meeting of its sixty-fifth session on 11 April 2013 ([E/ECE/1464 - Appendix III](#));
- *(Para 2.) All **Sectoral Committees and other subsidiary bodies** may adopt their own Rules of Procedure on the basis of ECE Rules of Procedure and, where applicable, Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council, taking into account these guidelines. **Otherwise it will be presumed that they are governed by the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and, where applicable, Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council and taking into account these guidelines mutatis mutandis.***

Need for new RoP - Cause #2

New RoP for COFFI

FORESTS



- *The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) adopted a new set of Rules of Procedure of COFFI during its seventy-sixth session, held in Vancouver, Canada in November 2018 (ECE/TIM/2018/2).*
- *The new RoP's were applied in the seventy seventh session of COFFI in November 2019.*
- *Upon request by EXCOM (102nd session), COFFI further refined the during its seventy-seventh session. The amendment refined the part with regard to participation of "Representatives of nongovernmental organizations, private sector, academia, and other entities whose work is relevant to the forest sector and COFFI" (ECE/TIM/2019/2).*
- *The Revised RoP were applied in the seventy-eight's session of COFFI in November 2020.*

Need for new RoP - Cause #3

The JWPFSEM works on established practices

FORESTS



- *The JWPFSEM operates based on established practices, which is not in line with “Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies” adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe at the fifth meeting of its sixty-fifth session on 11 April 2013 ([E/ECE/1464 - Appendix III](#));*

Discussion of RoP at the JWPFSEM

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- *At its forty-first session the Joint Working Party in (March 2019) decided that, given the still ongoing discussions to amend the COFFI Rules of Procedure, it preferred to defer the decision to the forty-second session of the Joint Working Party.*
- *Decision cannot be deferred any longer, since the JWPFSEM operates based on established practices, which is not in line with “Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies” adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe at the fifth meeting of its sixty-fifth session on 11 April 2013 ([E/ECE/1464 - Appendix III](#));*

Differences in Rules of Procedure

(non exhaustive summary)

	JWPFSEM Established practices	COFFI <u>ECE/TIM/2019/2</u>	ECE <u>E/ECE/778/Rev.5</u>
Election and term of bureau	<p>The Joint Working Party elect a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairperson, who will hold office until the end of the next session. According to current practice, the outgoing vice-chair would leave the bureau (after six years of service) and the chair will conclude his term of office (after four years of service) as the Chair of the Joint Working Party and the incoming vice chair would become Chair (after two years of service).</p>	<p>11. The Committee shall elect a Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons among individuals nominated by member States of UNECE. The Committee Bureau shall consist of those four officers. 12. The term of office shall be one year. Bureau members can be re-elected for maximum seven additional terms. Efforts shall be made to ensure continuity within the Bureau, as appropriate. The terms of office of elected officials will begin at the end of the session in which they are elected. This will allow the current officers to preside over the session that they have prepared and organized.</p>	<p>The Commission shall, at each biennial session, elect a country from among its members to hold the chair for the period of the biennium. The representative of the elected country will be the Chairperson. The Commission will also, at the same meeting, elect two countries whose representatives will become the Vice-Chairpersons for the period of the biennium. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission will also serve as the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Committee for the period of the biennium.</p>

Outline of some differences in Rules of Procedure

(non exhaustive summary)

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	JWPFSEM Established practices	COFFI <u>ECE/TIM/2019/2</u>	ECE <u>E/ECE/778/Rev.5</u>
Chairperson and vice chairpersons	Same as COFFI	If the Chairperson can no longer perform the functions of the office, the Bureau of the Committee shall designate one of the Vice-Chairpersons as interim Chairperson to perform those functions pending the election of a new Chairperson by the Committee. The interim Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.	Rule 14 If the representative of the country holding the position of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Commission ceases to represent his/her country, the new representative of that country will become the new Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term. If the representative of the country holding the position of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson is so incapacitated that he/she can no longer hold office, the alternate representative will become the new Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term.

Outline of some differences in Rules of Procedure

Options

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	JWPFSEM Established practices	COFFI <u>ECE/TIM/2019/2</u>	ECE <u>E/ECE/778/Rev.5</u>
Development of Annotated agenda	The secretariat consults with the Joint Bureau of COFFI/EFC and with the chair of the JWPFSEM	Same as ECE	The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairperson, the two Vice Chairpersons and the Executive Committee

Future RoP for the JWPFSEM

Options

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- *Option 1: Consensus among member States to apply COFFI RoP*
→ *COFFI RoP will be applied in the future*
- *Option 2: Consensus among member States to apply ECE RoP.*
→ *ECE RoP will be applied in the future*
- *Option 3: The JWP agrees by consensus on its own RoP*
→ *New RoP will be applied in the future*
- *Option 4: No consensus among member States*
→ *ECE RoP will be applied to in the future*

... the new RoP will be applied as of the 43rd session of the JWPFSEM

Discussion, statements comments

ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/1/Rev.1

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- The Joint Working Party will be invited to decide on whether to apply the ~~new~~ revised set of rules of Procedure of COFFI or to ~~keep~~ applying ECE Rules of Procedure.



Thank you!



UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

22-24 March 2021, Geneva