

**Decisions submitted to silence procedure following formal meeting with remote participation
of the 42nd session of Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics
and Management on 22-24 March 2021**

Agenda item	Document (LINK)	Decision
	<p>Report of the 42nd session: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/2 LINK</p> <p>Meeting website with official and informal documents: https://unece.org/forests/jwpssem2021</p>	
1.		<p>10. After opening remarks, the Chair introduced the agenda (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/1/Rev.1) which was adopted without changes. The secretariat requested to discuss under Agenda item 10 (any other business) whether background documents for the forty-third session of the Joint Working Party in 2022 could be issued in English only.</p>
2.		
3		<p>14. Delegates noted that the ECE Rules of Procedure may not be fully suited to the Joint Working Party, it being a joint body of ECE and FAO. The Joint Working Party requested the secretariat to develop an ad-hoc set of draft Rules of Procedure for its consideration and possible adoption at the next session. In developing the draft, the secretariat was requested to liaise with member States to collect suggestions and identify specific areas to be addressed by the new rules.</p>
4		<p>15. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party on the progress of work on forests and a circular economy. This included a presentation on the first draft of the study on how circular economy concepts relate to forest-based industries and on the progress of work on an inventory of existing wood waste classifications and plans for further work.</p> <p>16. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided. Member States supported the direction of the secretariat's work on forests and a circular economy and recommended the secretariat to expand the work on "Circularity concepts in forest-based industries" to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The circular nature of the carbon cycle in sustainably managed forests and current threats to forests; (b) The clarification on the role of bioenergy in a circular economy; (c) The link between circular economy concepts, the carbon cycle and climate change mitigation; (d) The need for balancing the provision of wood with other forest ecosystem services; (e) Consideration of potential adverse consequences of specific recycling and recovery of wood waste activities on carbon emissions, and the need for a careful analysis of circularity applications and their flexible implementation to maximize benefits and mitigate unexpected consequences; (f) The interplay between a circular economy and the bioeconomy, and the concept of circular bioeconomy, describing the importance of favouring bio-based feedstock in replenishing a circular system.

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5 (a)		<p>19. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided and:</p> <p>(a) Appreciated the results of the collaborative work of ECE, FAO and Forest Europe on forest resources monitoring, reporting and assessment, and supported further cooperation in this regard;</p> <p>(b) Welcomed recent outputs, including a study on forest ownership and country overviews on forests and forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia;</p> <p>(c) Recommended continuing the implementation of the project “Assessment of forest damage/disturbances in the ECE region”, taking into consideration (i) the analysis of the potential for using damaged wood; (ii) the clarification of proposed terms; (iii) the heterogeneity of reporting practices on forest disturbances.</p> <p>(d) Recommended continuing the collaboration between ECE, FAO and Forest Europe in the next phases of the project, and welcomed the interest of some member States to participate in the project;</p> <p>(e) Recommended continuing the work on the dissemination of the collected data and other outputs, taking advantage of electronic means of dissemination;</p> <p>(f) Appreciated the work of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management and encouraged the Team to continue its work within the current mandate.</p>
5 (a)		<p>21. The Working Party took note of the information provided and:</p> <p>(a) Supported the work on forest products statistics, appreciating the excellent cooperation between members of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics;</p> <p>(b) Endorsed the work on improving the Harmonised System trade classification and the plans to request input from members of the Working Party and the Teams of Specialists;</p> <p>(c) Called for further capacity-building efforts to improve understanding of the JFSQ and to explore small-scale collaboration;</p> <p>(d) Recognized the normative work of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics in developing the JFSQ and urged simplification where possible;</p> <p>(e) Thanked the secretariat, the Team of Specialists and the national correspondents for the work on forest products statistics, which is a core activity of the Joint Section and a basis for other activities at the national and international level.</p>
5 (a)		<p>27. The Joint Working Party:</p> <p>(a) Acknowledged the importance of Forest Products Markets as a work area and the Forest Products Annual Market Review and supported the current plan of the secretariat for the publication. There was a general sense that information on engineered wood products and factory-built homes could be a focus for future improvements in the country market statements. The coverage of these issues could also be increased in the FPAMR;</p> <p>(b) Indicated support for the current format of the Market Discussions and suggested that they could be longer;</p> <p>(c) Thanked Mr. Matthew Fonseca, the Publications Assistant for his service to the Joint Section.</p>

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5 (a)		<p>32. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided and:</p> <p>(a) Congratulated the secretariat on the timely release of the 15 January 2021 press release on the main findings of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry for the reference year 2017;</p> <p>(b) Proposed organizing an online capacity-building workshop on wood energy statistics to improve the rate and quality of responses. It also encouraged the involvement of the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy as well as other organizations (e.g. Eurostat) when preparing the workshop;</p> <p>(c) Encouraged the secretariat to continue collaboration with other organizations, in particular reaching out to the EU Commission, which will set up a new wood energy reporting scheme in the coming years. Closer collaboration is likely to decrease the reporting burden of national correspondents and increase the visibility of the data provided to the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry;</p> <p>(d) Urged the secretariat to provide the necessary resources for processing, analyzing and dissemination of the information obtained through the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry;</p> <p>(e) Noted that one of the main challenges for future work on wood energy is to determine the sources of wood currently classified as coming from unknown sources;</p> <p>(f) Noted that the two topics identified by the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy are very valid and encouraged further work on “wood energy and air quality” as well as “carbon footprint of wood energy”.</p>
5 (b)		<p>34. The Joint Working Party:</p> <p>(a) Welcomed the information provided and requested the secretariat to continue supporting the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and accelerate action and delivery within the scope of IPoW;</p> <p>(b) Requested the secretariat to contribute to the implementation of the UNFF Strategic Plan.</p>
5 (b)		<p>33. During the last session, WP.1 appreciated the attention given to human factors in the formulation of international regulations on automated vehicles as well as in the development of artificial intelligence for use in autonomous and assisted driving. Given the relevance of human factors as well as in the context of identifying the most appropriate strategy to inform and educate road users on how to interact with the “new traffic”, the WP.1 Chair invited academics from Eindhoven University, Delft University, and University of South Carolina , to provide their insights on questions and challenges arising from the use of automated vehicles . WP.1 expressed interest and appreciation, and invited the three academics to provide regular updates at future sessions. Canada proposed the idea of a Charter on Human Factors and Automated Driving. The Chair welcomed the proposal and invited WP.1 to contribute.</p>
5 (b)		<p>38. The Joint Working Party:</p> <p>(a) Welcomed the progress on the preparation of the FSOS and the applied integrated modelling approach for the entire ECE region;</p> <p>(b) Was informed about forest sector modelling activities in member States and plans on how to support the dissemination of the FSOS; and</p> <p>(c) Highlighted the importance of the study and its data for policy making.</p>

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5 (b)		<p>40. The Joint Working Party:</p> <p>(a) Expressed its satisfaction and appreciation with the work of the Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests, especially with regards to its potential for becoming an efficient platform for science-policy dialogue;</p> <p>(b) Recommended continuing the work of the ToS on Boreal Forests as part of the new Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025.</p>
5 (c)		<p>1. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided and:</p> <p>(a) Encouraged the secretariat to continue to use the expertise of the Forest Communicators' Network;</p> <p>(b) Recommended communicating about the sustainable use of forest resources already taking place in the ECE region;</p> <p>(c) Encouraged further supporting the member States to address misinformation around sustainable forest management, in particular in boreal forests;</p> <p>(d) Emphasized the importance of dissemination of the Forest Sector Outlook Study;</p> <p>(e) Suggested a generally closer link to the work in the other work areas, including their ToS areas to support appropriate communication of the activities and work done there;</p> <p>(f) Expressed satisfaction with the Forest Information Billboard.</p>
5 (d)		<p>46. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided and:</p> <p>(a) Appreciated the results of, and the work of the secretariat on, the implementation of capacity-building projects on developing criteria and indicators on sustainable forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia;</p> <p>(b) Welcomed the capacity-building work in the Caucasus and Central Asia and stressed the importance of extending support on the JFSQ to the whole ECE region;</p> <p>(c) Encouraged the use of online tools in capacity-building and working in smaller groups to share knowledge;</p> <p>(d) Supported continuing capacity-building activities on forest products statistics and wood energy reporting;</p> <p>(e) Recognized the importance of providing support to countries in developing national forest outlooks;</p> <p>(f) Welcomed the work on the knowledge platform, as a tool to support countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia in their work on forest landscape restoration.</p>
6 (a)		<p>49. The Joint Working Party members reviewed the text of the second draft, raised questions, and proposed specific changes. The secretariat clarified the questions, took note of the specific proposals which will be addressed, as appropriate, in the new draft of the IPoW.</p>

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6 (b)		<p>53. On the Teams of Specialists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests: There was a general consensus that the mandate of this newly established ToS should be extended over the period covered by the IPoW 2022-2025; • Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management: General satisfaction was expressed on the work of this team, which has been very productive through the years and whose maintenance is essential to guarantee continuity of work in this area. • Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products: There was a general consensus that the mandate of this ToS should be extended over the period covered by the IPoW 2022-2025. • Merging of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics with the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy: Wood energy was deemed as very relevant, requiring capacities under the new IPoW. While most delegates appreciated the rationale behind the proposal, they were concerned that the size of the new team would be rather cumbersome for the secretariat to service and stressed that the focus of the team should not become too broad. The creation of specific sub/thematic-groups within the merged team could guarantee that both aspects are allocated the necessary time and attention; it was noted that different experts should be appointed by member States for each of the sub-teams. Moreover, it was suggested to also address wood energy in other ToS, where appropriate. • Non-renewal of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook for the duration of the Integrated Programme of Work: There was an overall consensus that the team could be suspended for the moment, given the completion of the Forest Sector Outlook Study 2021, provided that the secretariat would continue working on its dissemination and capacity building activities. Several countries suggested to use the wording “suspension” instead of “non-renewal” to clarify that this would be a temporary pausing of the work of the Team. The final proposal for the consideration and approval of COFFI/EFC should make it clear that the Outlook ToS is not discontinued, but simply put on hold for the period 2022-2025, as it is expected to be reactivated for the subsequent period. A respective para for integration in the IPoW under point 16 (e) was suggested to enable the secretariat resuming work on the Forest Sector Outlook if deemed necessary. • Non-renewal of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs: There was no consensus on the discontinuation of this Team of Specialists, and a general agreement on the importance of its work and output. In order to increase cooperation, suitable modalities to facilitate joint work of Forest Europe and ECE/FAO on this important issue should be identified and pursued. ECE was asked to explore with ILO if ILO could provide the secretariat support for the Team as part of their cooperation with ECE and FAO; • Non-renewal of the Team of Specialists on Forest Communication: There seem to be an overall consensus on the importance of maintaining this ToS, with FAO providing its secretariat and increasing its ties with the work of ECE/FAO. Alternatively, all ToS should increase their work to disseminate information and communicate their outcomes on relevant products. <p>54. The Joint Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a proposal on the new architecture of Teams of Specialists as part of the new IPoW, taking the above into consideration. This proposal would be submitted for the consideration of, and approval by, the Joint COFFI/EFC session in October 2021.</p>

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7		56. The list of activities, reflecting amendments by the Joint Working Party, was approved as contained in the Annex.
8		60. At the end of the forty-second session, Mr. Matthias Dieter, Germany, Chair of the forty-first and forty-second sessions, was elected as Vice-Chair. Ms. Magdalena Wolicka, Poland, Vice-Chair of the forty-first and forty-second sessions, was elected as the new Chair. Mr. Michal Synek, Czech Republic, was elected as new Vice-Chair. They will hold office until the end of the forty-third session.
9		62. The Joint Working Party agreed that the forty-third session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will be held on 22-24 March 2022 in Geneva. 63. The Joint Working Party requested a three-day session to allow for interactive sessions and sufficient time for catching up on missed discussions in the past two years caused by the postponed meeting in 2020 and the hybrid meeting in 2021 due to sanitary measure against COVID-19.
10		64. The Joint Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare all parliamentary documentation for its forty-third session in all official languages of the ECE.
11		65. The Joint Working Party adopted the report of its session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. 66. The meeting closed at 17:23 on Wednesday 24 March.