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**Food and Agriculture Organization
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Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

European Forestry Commission

**Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management****Forty-second session**

Geneva, 22-24 March 2021

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

**Revised annotated provisional agenda for the forty-second
session***

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations Geneva, starting at 11 a.m. on Monday, 22 March 2021.

Summary

This annotated agenda provides guidance for delegates to the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (Joint Working Party) on the structure of the meeting and main topics to be discussed. The meeting will exceptionally allow for extended online participation due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and its associated public health concerns and constraints.

The Joint Working Party will be invited to provide guidance on the implementation of all areas of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work 2018-2021, supervise the work of Teams of Specialists and facilitate the exchange of information on their work, and identify priorities for action and relevant emerging issues. The Joint Working Party will suggest priorities and specific recommendations to the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission for consideration. The Joint Working Party shall, for each Work Area, on the basis of the background documents prepared by the secretariat, review and comment on the activities undertaken during the past year, the current year and the plans for the forthcoming year.

Information on work delivered by the secretariat since the forty-first session of the Joint Working Party can be found in the meeting documents, to be made available on the website of the Forestry and Timber Section prior to the meeting (<https://unece.org/forests/jwpcfsem2021>).

In addition to the review of the work accomplished, this year's session of the Joint Working Party will discuss the Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work, with a focus on possible activities and areas covered by the Teams of Specialists in the next Integrated Programme of Work (2022-2025).

* Documents and more information, including the registration form, at: <https://unece.org/forests/jwpcfsem2021>.



I. Revised provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Outcomes of the joint seventy-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the fortieth session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations European Forestry Commission held in Geneva from 4 to 7 November 2019 and the seventy-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry held in Geneva from 4 to 6 November 2020.
3. Revision of the Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party.
4. Forests and the circular economy.
5. Guidance on Work Areas:
 - (a) Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment;
 - (b) Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice;
 - (c) Work Area 3: Communication and outreach;
 - (d) Work Area 4: Capacity-building.
6. Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work:
 - (a) Guidance on the revised draft of the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2024;
 - (b) Guidance on possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work.
7. Overview on forest and forest sector related work by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and a draft list of Integrated Programme of Work activities planned for 2022.
8. Election of officers.
9. Date and place of next meeting.
10. Any other business.
11. Adoption of the report.

II. Background information

1. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (Joint Working Party) is a subsidiary body of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and contributes to the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work of those two bodies. It does so by coordinating the Teams of Specialists and the activities of the Integrated Programme of Work as well as providing technical advice. It takes instructions from the COFFI and the EFC and meets annually to:

(a) Provide guidance on the implementation of all areas of the Integrated Programme of Work;

(b) Supervise the work of Teams of Specialists and facilitate the exchange of information on their work; and

(c) Identify priorities for action and relevant emerging issues; and transmit suggested priorities and specific recommendations to the COFFI and the EFC for consideration, and

(d) On the basis of a report from the secretariat, review and comment on the activities undertaken during the past year and the plans for the forthcoming year.

2. The Joint Working Party shall review, on an ongoing basis, the work of the Teams of Specialists and their contribution to the Work Areas as well as work between the Teams of Specialists to ensure the most effective and efficient implementation of their activities. It will:

(a) Receive and discuss the reports from the Teams of Specialists in order to enhance the understanding of their activities and assess their work plans; when needed, review and recommend updated mandates for endorsement by the parent bodies;

(b) Identify possible synergies; and facilitate the exchange of experiences between Teams of Specialists and delegations from member States; and

(c) Increase the visibility and impact of the work of Teams of Specialists among member States and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations.

3. The Joint Working Party, as part of its work for the COFFI and the EFC, shall:

(a) Propose priorities for activities in the Work Areas and on relevant emerging issues;

(b) Provide, upon request from the parent bodies, methodologies for use in economic analysis of the sector, as well as techniques for collecting, validating, analyzing and disseminating information and statistics;

(c) Initiate, upon request from the parent bodies, ad hoc projects in economics and statistics related to forestry, forest products and forest policies and institutions;

(d) Contribute and provide technical advice to the COFFI and the EFC on issues under consideration by those bodies, including the preparation of studies on the status and future of forests and on the forest industry such as the Forest Sector Outlook and the Forest Products Annual Market Reviews;

(e) Invite other sectors to the sessions to discuss issues related to forest information and management of common interest, including best practices in sustainable forestry management and their impact on the overall sustainability of forests, natural resources management, and other issues such as biodiversity and climate change; and

(f) Invite other international bodies and processes to the sessions, including the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Conference of European Statisticians, Forest Europe and Eurostat, with a view to coordinating activities and avoiding any duplication of effort.

III. Annotations to the Revised Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the revised agenda

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

4. The meeting will be opened by the Chair of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (Joint Working Party). In his opening, the chair will provide a short overview on the implications of having a meeting with extended online participation as outlined by the ECE Executive Committee (ECE/EX/2020/L.13 and EXCOM/CONCLU/112).

5. The Chair will introduce the revised agenda that was prepared in consultation with the Joint Bureau of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the Executive Committee of the FAO European Forestry Commission and the bureau of the Joint Working Party. The Joint Working Party will be invited to adopt the revised agenda of the meeting.

2. Outcomes of the joint seventy-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the fortieth session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations European Forestry Commission held in Geneva from 4 to 7 November 2019 and the seventy-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry held in Geneva from 4 to 6 November 2020.

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2019/2 FO:EFC/2019/2 and ECE/TIM/2020/2

6. The 41st session of the Joint Working Party scheduled to be held in 2020 was postponed by one year in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and its associated public health concerns and constraints.

7. The two governing bodies of the Joint Working Party held their meetings as planned. The joint seventy-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the fortieth session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations European Forestry Commission was held in Geneva from 4 to 7 November 2019. The seventy-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry was held in Geneva from 4 to 6 November 2020.

8. The secretariat will present a summary of the discussions held in the two meetings above and highlight implications for the work of the Joint Working Party.

9. The Joint Working Party will be invited to take note of the information provided.

3. Revision of the Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/2 and ECE/TIM/2018/2

10. At its forty-first session the secretariat informed the Joint Working Party that COFFI approved a new set of Rules of Procedure of COFFI during its seventy-sixth session, held in Vancouver, Canada in November 2018. The secretariat further explained that this could also be applied to the Joint Working Party, should its membership decide so.

11. Taking into account the “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), the Working Party was invited to decide on whether to be governed by the “Rules of Procedure of the ECE COFFI” and, where applicable, “Rules of Procedure of ECE” (E/ECE/778/Rev.5) *mutatis mutandis*.

12. The most important change between currently applied established procedures of the Joint Working Party and the current version of the Rules of Procedure of COFFI would be the composition of the bureau. The bureau of the COFFI is now composed of a chairperson and three vice-chairs, while the bureau of the Joint Working Party is composed of a chairperson and two vice-chairs.

13. At its forty-first session the Joint Working Party 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.

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

4. Forests and the circular economy

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/inf.3, ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/inf.4 and ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/inf.5

15. The secretariat will inform the Joint Working Party on progress of work on the issue of forests in a circular economy. This will include a presentation on the draft stock-taking document on how the circular economy concepts relate to the forest-based sector. In addition, the secretariat will inform the Joint Working Party on progress of work on an inventory of existing wood waste classifications.

16. The Joint Working Party will be invited to take note of the information provided and to provide feedback to the secretariat on the draft publication on forest in a circular economy. Member States are invited to further discuss the first results of the inventory of wood waste classifications and to provide guidance on further direction of this work.

5. Guidance on Work Areas

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/3, 4, 5, 6
ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/3, 4, 5, 6

17. Delegates will be requested to review the activities of 2019, 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. They will also be expected to review future work plans for 2021 and indicate their support or where changes are needed. This guidance should cover both the work of the secretariat as well as the work of the Teams of Specialists.

18. The secretariat has invited each Team of Specialists to prepare a report to the Joint Working Party by 15 February 2021 and will publish these separate reports on the website of the meeting. The leader, deputy leader or a designated member of each team will be invited to present the work of their Team of Specialists during informal side events with no interpretation.

19. Work delivered by the secretariat since the forty-first session of the Joint Working Party can be found in the four "*Reports by the secretariat*" on Work Areas 1-4, which will be made available prior to the meeting. As the Joint Working Party did not meet in 2020 due to special circumstances, delegates will be provided with a double set of documents – one for 2020 and one for 2021. The documents ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020 are intended to provide background information about work implemented by the secretariat in 2019. The discussion during the 42nd session will focus on topics and questions highlighted in the current documentation ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021. The secretariat presentation at the meeting "*Implementation by the secretariat*" will highlight only the major achievements in order to allow for more discussion time. The documentation will contain a detailed description of the topics as well as the discussion points and questions to the Joint Working Party on each Work Area.

20. Some highlights from the work areas are listed below.

(a) Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/3 and ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/3

21. The secretariat will provide a brief update on progress of ongoing work and planned activities for 2021, which will include reporting on forests, forest management, forest products markets and the analysis of data collected.

22. Delegates will have an opportunity to comment on the Work Area, including on the following items:

- (a) Update on the Forest Resources Assessment;
- (b) Reporting on forest disturbances;
- (c) Impact of COVID-19 on forest-based industries;
- (d) Forest Products Annual Market Review 2020 and 2021 and Market Discussion 2020;
- (e) Joint Wood Energy Enquiries 2017 and 2019.

23. The following Teams of Specialists will be invited to present the results of work completed since the previous session of the Joint Working Party, and plans for work under the current mandate (until 2021) during an informal (English only) side event:

- (a) Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management;
- (b) Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics;
- (c) Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products; and
- (d) Team of Specialists on Wood Energy.

(b) Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/4

24. The secretariat will provide a brief update on the progress of ongoing work and planned activities for 2021, on forest policies and Forest Sector Outlook.

25. Delegates will be invited to comment on the Work Area, including on the following topics:

- (a) Secretariat's involvement in and contribution to global and subregional processes;
- (b) Short summary of the results of the Forest Sector Outlook study;
- (c) National Forestry Policy Dialogues;
- (d) Boreal Forests.

26. The Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests and the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook and Forest Policy will be invited to present the results of work that have been completed since the previous session and plans for work under the current mandate (until 2021) during an informal (English only) side event.

(c) Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/5 and ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/5

27. The secretariat will provide a brief update on the progress of ongoing work and planned activities for 2021 on communication and outreach.

28. Delegates will have an opportunity to comment on the Work Area including on the following topics:

- (a) Impacts of COVID-19 on communication and outreach and solutions found;
- (b) The "Trees in cities challenge";

- (c) International Day of Forests 2021 “*Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being*”;
- (d) The Forest Information Billboard;
- (e) The new data platform and database.

29. The Team of Specialists on Forest Communication (Forest Communicators’ Network) will be invited to present the results of work that has been completed since the previous session and plans for work under the current mandate (until 2021) during an informal (English only) side event.

(d) Work Area 4: Capacity-building

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/6 ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/6

30. The secretariat will provide a brief update on progress of work and planned activities for 2020, on capacity building. Delegates will be invited to comment on the work, including on the following items:

- (a) United Nations Development Account (UNDA) Project on “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”, which was extended with additional funding to 2020;
- (b) Landscape Restoration;
- (c) Forest Sector Outlook webinar;
- (d) Statistics and data collection (wood energy and forest products statistics).

31. The Team of Specialists on Green Jobs will be invited to present the results of work completed since the previous session and plans for work under the current mandate (until 2021) during an informal (English only) side event.

6. Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/2, ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/7 and ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/inf.1

(a) Guidance on the revised draft of the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2024

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/2 and ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/7

32. The Strategic Review (SR) is a thorough assessment of the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) for the ECE COFFI and the FAO EFC, covering the scope, structure and content of the programme; methods; partnerships; outputs from its implementation; objectives; and work of joint EFC and COFFI subsidiary bodies in order to prepare the Programme of Work for the following four year period (2022-2025).

33. The joint seventy-seventh session of the ECE COFFI and the fortieth session of the FAO EFC endorsed the timeline as contained in Annex I of document ECE/TIM/2019/2-FO:EFC/2019/2. After the Joint session, the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section consulted the Joint Bureaux of COFFI and EFC and started a review of the draft questionnaire for the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) stakeholders’ survey and sought their approval of the Strategic Review roadmap on the preparation of the 2022-2025 IPoW.

34. The outcome of the stakeholder consultations was presented and discussed during an “*Informal discussion on key findings of a survey for the Strategic Review of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW) 2018-2021*” in June 2020[†]. The secretariat, guided by the Joint Bureau of COFFI and EFC used the outcome of the survey and the discussion to

[†] <https://unece.org/forests/events/informal-discussion-key-findings-survey-strategic-review-warsaw-integrated-programme>.

develop a first draft programme of work that was presented and discussed during the seventy-eighth session of COFFI (ECE/TIM/2020/7) in November 2020.

35. The secretariat, guided by the Joint Bureau of COFFI and EFC, revised the draft integrated Programme of Work based on the discussion during the 78th session of COFFI and prepared the background document for this discussion (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/7).

36. The Joint Working Party is invited to comment on the revised version of the draft integrated Programme of Work and to provide guidance on developing the document further (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/7). Delegates are invited consider revisions introduced and provide additional comments, if necessary. The future composition of the supporting Teams of Specialists will be discussed under agenda item 6 (b).

(b) Guidance on possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/2 and ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/inf.1

37. During its 78th session, COFFI requested the secretariat to investigate several issues related to the future composition of the Team of Specialists. The Committee requested the secretariat to:

- (a) Consult with the Joint Working Party on the merging of the ToS on Wood Energy and ToS on Forest Products Statistics;
- (b) Prepare a background document on how to enhance synergies between the ToS' and present it at the next session of the JWP; and
- (c) Consider an alternative format to continue the work on green jobs should the work of the ToS on Green Jobs be discontinued.

38. The background paper on the synergies will outline the contributions of each of the Team of Specialists to the implementation of the current Integrated Programme of Work from all angles, including some information on their efficiency. The document will outline how the number of Teams of Specialists could be best adjusted to the resources of the secretariat and how the terms of reference of the future Team of Specialists could be adjusted to maximize their contribution to the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025.

39. The objective of the discussion during the JWP is to recommend how to modify the composition of the ToS's, support in order to enhance synergies between different teams and suggest alternative formats.

40. The Joint Working Party is invited to consider the information provided by the secretariat and provide feedback to the proposed structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work.

7. Overview on forest and forest sector related work by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and a draft list of Integrated Programme of Work activities that are planned for 2022.

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/Inf.2

41. The joint seventy-fifth session of the ECE COFFI and the thirty-ninth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission requested in the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (ECE/TIM/2017/2–FO:EFC/2017/2) Annex I para 4: “A specific list of activities to implement the Programme is agreed on an annual basis by the Working Party and the ECE COFFI and the FAO EFC. ECE and FAO are asked, in line with their governance structures, to present an overview of their forest-related work in the region to each session of the Working Party in order to facilitate the review of the proposed list”.

42. The secretariat will present a preliminary list of activities planned for 2022 to the Joint Working Party (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/Inf.2). In line with the Warsaw Integrated

Programme of Work 2018-2021, the Joint Working Party is invited to review and agree on the list. *“The final list of activities prepared every year should help member States and regional economic integration organizations to further prioritize the work of the secretariat. A related budget will be prepared and shared with the Joint Bureaux, member States and regional economic integration organizations after the approval of the list to understand the feasibility of activities and identify funding needs”.*

43. In accordance with this request, the secretariat will invite ECE and FAO to compile such an overview and present this preliminary list of activities planned for 2022 to the Joint Working Party.

44. Under this agenda item, the secretariat will also brief the Joint Working Party on its contributions to the Nexus work within the ECE.

45. The Working Party will be invited to take note of the information provided and to approve the initial list of activities.

8. Election of officers

46. The Joint Working Party will be expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the forty-third session. At its forty-first session, the Joint Working Party re-elected Mr. M. Dieter (Germany) as Chair and Mr. J. Prestemon (United States of America) and Ms. M. Wolicka (Poland) as Vice-Chairs until the end of the forty-second session. According to current practice, Mr. J. Prestemon would leave the bureau and Mr. M. Dieter will conclude his term of office as the Chair of the Joint Working Party and Ms. M. Wolicka would become Chair.

47. Should the Joint Working Party decide to adopt the Rules of Procedures of COFFI under Agenda Item 4, it should elect a Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons among individuals nominated by member States of UNECE instead. The Joint Working Party Bureau shall consist of those four officers in accordance with the COFFI Rules of Procedure:

(a) “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.

(b) Candidates for the Bureau of the Committee and other subsidiary bodies shall be nominated by member States based on the person’s expertise, professionalism, and expected support from the membership.

(c) Geographical balance should be taken into due consideration when examining the candidatures of potential Bureau members.

(d) Member States, while making their nomination, shall ensure that candidates or their employers have no contractual agreement with ECE, from which they or their employers may financially benefit, in order to avoid conflicts of interest.

(e) The elections for the Bureau will take place in accordance with the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE bodies (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, Annex III, appendix III)”.

48. In case the Joint Working Party decides to stay with the current ECE rules of procedures, it will only be asked to elect one new incoming chairperson.

49. The Joint Working Party is reminded that the selection of the incoming Vice-Chair should take in consideration gender and regional balance. The secretariat will circulate an official communication on this matter to the Heads of Delegation and the respective Missions in Geneva in due course.

9. Date and place of next meeting

50. The secretariat proposes 22-23 March 2022 in Geneva, Palais des Nations for the forty-third session of the Joint Working Party, following the celebrations of the International Day of Forests 2022 that will be organized on Monday 21 March 2022.

10. Any other business

51. None at the time of writing. Delegates may propose topics for discussion prior to the meeting.

11. Adoption of the report

52. The Joint Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its session based on a draft prepared by the secretariat.

IV. List of important abbreviations and acronyms

COFFI	Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
EFC	European Forestry Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
IPoW	Integrated Programme of Work
JB	Joint Bureaux of the ECE COFFI and FAO EFC
RoP	Rules of Procedure
SR	Strategic Review
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToS	Team of Specialists
