

**Economic and Social Council**

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**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations****Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry****Food and Agriculture Organization
European Forestry Commission****Seventy-ninth session**

Rome, 22 to 25 November 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Forty-first session**

Rome, 22 to 25 November 2021

**Annotated provisional agenda for the joint session of the
Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the
European Forestry Commission**

Rome, Italy, 22-25 November 2021 (in-person and online participation)

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. The Future of Forests.
3. Joint Committee/Commission matters:
 - (a) Progress in the global and regional forest resources assessment processes;
 - (b) Global and regional forest policy matters;
 - (c) Forest economics and markets;
 - (d) Reporting on the implementation of the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions:
 - (i) Report of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management;
 - (ii) Review of 2021 activities and publications planned for 2022;
 - (e) Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025;
 - (f) Forest landscape restoration;
 - (g) The contribution of forests and forest products to a circular bio-economy;
 - (h) Contributions from the 2021 Food Systems Summit and matters for the attention of the Committee and the Commission;



- (i) Any other business.
4. Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters:
- (a) Matters arising since the last session
 - (b) Programme of work for 2022 and recommendations on key components of the programme of work 2023;
 - (c) Report on Economic Commission for Europe projects;
 - (d) Experiences from the International Women's Day event hosted by the Women's Forest Congress;
 - (e) Election of officers;
 - (f) Date and place of next meeting;
 - (g) Any other business.
5. Food and Agriculture Organization European Forestry Commission matters:
- (a) Follow-up to the decisions of the fortieth session of the European Forestry Commission;
 - (b) Presentation of forestry activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia;
 - (c) Progress of Silva Mediterranea and the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds;
 - (d) Regional cross-sectorial dialogue on forestry - agriculture matters: panel session;
 - (e) Global processes and initiatives;
 - (f) Preparations for the thirty-third Regional Conference for Europe (ERC 33), twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 26) and the XV World Forestry Congress;
 - (g) Election of officers, date and place of the next meeting;
 - (h) Any other business.
6. Adoption of the joint session report and closure of the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

For the timing of the agenda items, please refer to the schedule on the last two pages of this document.

Opening

The official session of the Committee and the Commission will be opened on 22 November at 10:00 a.m.

In accordance with past practice, the Bureaux of the Committee and Commission have suggested that the Chairs of the two bodies co-chair the joint session.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/1; FO:EFC/2021/1

In accordance with both bodies' rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda is the first item of the agenda.

2. The Future of Forests

In line with the theme of the 6th European Forest Week, this agenda item will explore perspectives on how forest resources should be managed in the coming decades, drawing on conclusions from the 2021 edition of the Forest Sector Outlook Study and other work relevant for the work of the Committee and Commission.

3. Joint Committee/Commission matters

(a) Progress in the global and regional forest resources assessment processes

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/3; FO:EFC/2021/3

Delegates will be informed about the progress in the Global Forest Resources Assessment process, including the current status of the FAO's work on improved reporting on primary forests (with a focus on boreal forest countries), as well as on the plans for the joint FAO, ECE and Forest Europe forest reporting in the pan-European region. In addition, delegates will be given an update on the initial regional findings included in the FAO global remote sensing survey.

Delegates will be invited to provide guidance to the regional reporting work.

(b) Global and regional forest policy matters

Delegates will be informed about policy developments at the global and regional level, which have a bearing on the work of the Committee and the Commission. This includes:

- (i) The 16th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the regional input to the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF);
- (ii) The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the UNECE region and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
- (iii) Regional processes and activities (e.g. Forest Europe, regional input to the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference (COP 26) and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15).

Delegates are invited to take note of the information provided and make recommendations for future work of the Committee and the Commission.

(c) Forest economics and markets

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/4; FO:EFC/2021/4

The market discussions focus on forest products' trends in the region, and the sector's contribution towards sustainable development. Delegates are invited to make statements on the latest trends in production and trade of forest products and discuss amendments to the draft Market Statement of the joint session (ECE/TIM/2021/4; FO:EFC/2021/4). Discussions will be supported by data and information collected, as well as publications issued by the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, in particular the Forest Products Annual Market Review 2020-2021.

(d) Reporting on the implementation of the 2018 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions

(i) Report of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

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

The report of the forty-second session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 to 24 March 2021, will be presented to the Committee and the Commission for their consideration.

Delegates will be briefed about the recommendations by the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management on the possible structure and number of Teams of Specialists under the future programme of work.

(ii) Review of 2021 activities, and activities and publications planned for 2022

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/5; FO:EFC/2021/5

Delegates will be updated on activities implemented in 2021 under the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW) They will also be presented with a provisional list of outputs and publications for 2022. This agenda item will be subject to decisions taken under agenda item 3(e), which considers the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) 2022-2025.

Delegates will be invited to endorse the document.

(e) Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/6; FO:EFC/2021/6

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/7; FO:EFC/2021/7

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/INF.2; FO:EFC/2021/INF.2

Delegates will be presented with a draft Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) 2022-2025.

Delegates will be invited to review and adopt the programme, including the relevant Terms of Reference of the subsidiary bodies.

(f) Forest landscape restoration

Delegates will be informed about past and current activities on forest landscape restoration. This includes: outcomes of the 2021 Ministerial Roundtable on Forest landscape restoration in Eastern and South East Europe and related activities in the region.

Delegates will be invited to discuss the direction and future activities in this area, particularly in the context of the 2021 – 2030 UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

(g) The contribution of forests and forest products to a circular bioeconomy

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/8; FO:EFC/2021/8

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/INF.3; FO:EFC/2021/INF.3

Delegates will be presented with the final draft of the study "Circularity Concepts in Forest Based Industries". Based on the recommendations from the study the secretariat will present suggestions on possible directions of future work on forests in a circular bio-economy.

Delegates are invited to provide guidance on future activities in this area.

(h) Contributions from the 2021 Food Systems Summit and matters for the attention of the Committee and the Commission

Delegates will be informed about the outcome of the 2021 Food Systems Summit (FSS) and its relevance for the work of the Committee and the Commission. Particular focus will be given to elements related to Action track 3 (FSS) and their link to work on forest landscape restoration and nature-based solutions.

(i) Any other business

None at the time of writing.

4. Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters

(a) Matters arising since the last session

Documentation: E/ECE/1494

Delegates will be updated about decisions adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at its sixty-ninth session held in virtually from 20 to 21 April 2021, as well as other developments at the United Nations that have an impacts and relevance to the IPoW.

(b) Programme of work for 2022 and recommendations on key components of the Programme of work 2023

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/9; FO:EFC/2021/9

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/INF.4; FO:EFC/2021/INF.4

The secretariat will present the draft programme of work for 2022, including the publications programme (ECE/TIM/2021/9; FO:EFC/2021/9). This document is based on the ECE proposed programme budget for 2022 (A/76/6 (Sect.20)) which was reviewed by the ECE Executive Committee in December 2020 and submitted for consideration by the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. The programme of work document reflects the annual budget format presented in 2020 in line with General Assembly resolution 72/266, with enrichments reflecting General Assembly resolutions 74/251 adopted on 27 December 2019 and 75/243 adopted on 31 December 2020. Delegates will be invited to adopt the programme of work and recommend it to the Executive Committee for approval.

At its meeting on 5 March 2021, the ECE Executive Committee adopted a document entitled “Sequential review of the proposed programmes of work of ECE subprogrammes” (doc. 2021/8). In line with the sequential review procedure, the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters will be invited to consider the “Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Forests and Forest Industry subprogramme for 2023” (ECE/TIM/2021/INF.4; FO:EFC/2021/INF.4) and provide recommendations on these components, as necessary. Those recommendations which are agreed by the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters and included in its decisions will be reflected in the proposed programme plan of the Forests and Forest Industry subprogramme for 2023.

(c) Report on the Economic Commission for Europe projects

Delegates will be informed about ongoing regional projects carried out under the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work.

(d) Experiences from the International Women’s Day event hosted by the Women’s Forest Congress

Delegates will be informed about ECE’s participation in the International Women’s Day event hosted by the Women’s Forest Congress on 8 March 2021 and will have the opportunity to learn more about the Women’s Forest Congress.

(e) Election of officers

The Committee is expected to elect its Chair and Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the eightieth session. At the seventy-eighth session, the following individuals were elected to hold office until the end of the seventy-ninth session: Ms. Maria Sokolenko as Chair; and Ms. Marta Gaworska (Poland), Mr. Peter Blombäck (Sweden), and Mr. Guy Robertson (United States) as Vice-Chairs.

(f) Date and place of next meeting

Provided that conference services are available, the week of 7 to 11 November 2022 has been provisionally reserved for the eightieth session of the Committee, to be held in Geneva if no country offers to host the meeting.

(g) Any other business

None at the time of writing.

5. Food and Agriculture Organization European Forestry Commission matters

(a) Follow-up to the decisions of the fortieth session of the European Forestry Commission

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/10; FO:EFC/2021/10

Delegates will be informed about implementation of the decisions taken by the Commission at the fortieth session. The review of progress in implementing previous decisions pays special attention to: global and regional developments, forest invasive species, forest landscape restoration, implementation of forestry related SDGs in the European region, and forestry and food security.

(b) Presentation of forestry activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/11; FO:EFC/2021/11

Delegates will be informed about forestry activities by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO-REU), and by the sub-regional Office for Central Asia (FAO-SEC). This includes activities in the pipeline and those which have been carried out.

Delegates will be invited to provide guidance to FAO's forestry work in the region.

(c) Progress of *Silva Mediterranea* and the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/12; FO:EFC/2021/12

Delegates will be briefed on the activities conducted under the auspices of *Silva Mediterranea*.

Delegates will be briefed on the activities of the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds, including the most recent development on the protective functions of forests in a changing climate.

Delegates will be invited to provide guidance on activities of the Working Party.

(d) Regional cross-sectorial dialogue on forestry - agriculture matters: panel session

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/13; FO:EFC/2021/13

COFO25 requested that FAO integrate forestry with FAO's work on food systems; promote synergies and address trade-offs between forestry and agriculture in initiatives and projects, including through COVID-19 pandemic recovery measures; enhance FAO's cross-sectoral work to address impacts of certain agriculture production systems and related food systems on forests; and stressed the importance of the Regional Forestry Commissions and the need for them to have a more policy-relevant role in the FAO Regional Conferences. A High-level Panel will discuss the practices and options for integrating forestry in FAO's work on food systems.

Delegates will be invited to provide guidance for setting up priorities on mainstreaming forestry in the work on food systems.

(e) Global processes and initiatives

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/14; FO:EFC/2021/14

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/INF.5; FO:EFC/2021/INF.5

Delegates will be updated on initiatives in the forest sector where FAO participates, including the internal cross-sectoral initiative on “Transforming food systems to feed the planet without deforestation”; preparations for the 17th session of UNFF, State of Forests 2022 (SOFO22), the Forestry Education Conference; and outcomes of the UNFCCC COP26 and CBD COP15.

Delegates will be invited to provide inputs to FAO contributions to the global process and initiatives.

(f) Preparations for thirty-third Regional Conference for Europe (ERC 33), twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 26), and the XV World Forestry Congress

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2021/15; FO:EFC/2021/15

Delegated will be informed about the preparations for the 33rd session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) and the twenty-sixth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) in 2022. The Commission will identify its regional priorities for the FAO Forestry programme. Delegates will also be informed and updated about preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress.

Delegates will be invited to discuss the options for further linking the work of Statutory Bodies to the work of the FAO Forestry Division and other policy areas with relevance for forestry.

(g) Election of officers, date and place of next meeting

In accordance with its rules of procedure and established practice, the Commission is expected to elect a Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons, who will hold office until the end of the forty-second session. At the thirty-ninth session, the following individuals/representatives were (re-)elected to hold office until the end of the fortieth session: Ms. Christine Farcy (Belgium) as Chairperson, and Mr. Rob Busink (Netherlands), Mr. Kenan Kilic (Turkey), and Ms. Liubov Poliakova (Ukraine) as Vice-Chairpersons.

Due to the lack of quorum at the fortieth session of the Commission, no election was held. An extraordinary session of the Commission was suggested, as means of holding elections. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, no extraordinary session could be organized and the Chairperson and the Vice-chairpersons have served for another term.

(h) Any other business

None at the time of writing.

6. Adoption of the joint session report and closure of the session

The Committee and the Commission will be invited to adopt the report on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

III. Tentative timetable

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, seventy-ninth session and European Forestry Commission, forty-first session

Monday, 22 November 2021

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
10:00 – 10:20		Official opening of the joint session and welcome remarks
10:20 – 10:30	Item 1	Adoption of the agenda
10:30 – 13:00	Item 2	The Future of Forests
15:00 – 18:00	Item 3	(a) Progress in the global and regional forest resources assessment processes (b) Global and regional forest policy matters (d) Reporting on the implementation of the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of work and related decisions (f) Forest landscape restoration (g) The contribution of forests and forest products to a circular bioeconomy

Tuesday, 23 November 2021

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
10:00 – 13:00	Item 3	(h) Contributions from the 2021 Food Systems Summit and matters for the consideration of the Committee and the Commission (e) Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025 (c) Forest economics and markets (i) Any other business
15:00 – 18:00	Item 4	(a) Matters arising since the last session (b) Programme of work for 2022 and recommendations on key components of the Programme of work 2023 (c) Report on the projects of the Economic Commission For Europe (d) Experiences from the International Women's Day event hosted by the Women's Forest Congress (e) Election of officers (f) Date and place of next meeting (g) Any other business

Wednesday, 24 November 2021

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
10:00 – 13:00	Item 5	(a) Follow-up to the decisions of the fortieth session of the European Forestry Commission (b) Presentation of forestry activities of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (c) Progress of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> and the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds
15:00 – 18:00	Item 5	(d) Regional cross-sectorial dialogue on forestry - agriculture matters: panel session (e) Global processes and initiatives; (f) Preparations for the thirty-third Regional Conference for Europe (ERC 33), twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 26), and for the XV World Forestry Congress

Thursday, 25 November 2021

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
10:00-13:00	Item 5	(g) Election of officers, date and place of the next meeting (h): Any other business
15:00 – 18:00	Item 6	Adoption of the joint session report and closure of the session
