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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 120th meeting of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) on 26 January 2022.

I. Introduction

2. This report describes the 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 ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) in Warsaw, Poland, in October 2017. In addition, this report highlights areas and trends that will shape future activities under the new Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025, adopted in Rome, Italy on 25 November 2021. More information is contained in the report of the seventy-ninth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the forty-first session of the FAO European Forestry Commission, which was held from 22 to 25 November 2021 in Rome, Italy (see document ECE/TIM/2021/2-FO/EFC/2021/2). In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the formal session was held in a hybrid format and allowed for extensive online participation. The Joint Session focused on the future of forests.

II. Achievements over the past twelve months

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 communication and capacity-building activities.

4. As a result of a strategic review process which was held between 2020 and 2021, a new Integrated Programme of Work for the period 2022 to 2025 was adopted at the Joint Session of COFFI and EFC in Rome, Italy on 25 November 2021.

5. A more detailed listing of key deliverables and events of COFFI and its secretariat (2021) 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 ECE region.

1. Highlighted outputs

- The “*Forest Products Annual Market Review 2020-2021*” was published in the autumn of 2021: a comprehensive analysis of market developments relevant to member States in 2020 and 2021 and forecast of possible market trends in 2021

and 2022. This year's assessment focused on changing global production and trade patterns particularly of industrial roundwood (IRW) which impact the UNECE region's exports. Thirty-two countries provided a wealth of information in their market forecasts and country market statements discussing developments in 2020 and showing detailed forecasts for 2021 and 2022. The Joint Session approved the market statement, indicating a strong positive trend in forest products markets in 2021 and a positive outlook for 2022.

- The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and the pan-European reporting on forests and sustainable forest management were finalized in 2020. In 2021 FAO, UNECE and Forest Europe, with the participation of other forest-related organizations, continued analysis and dissemination of the data collected. The global and regional data have been made available and disseminated through online platforms:
 - (a) The repository of FRA 2020 data for the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) (<https://fra-data.fao.org/>),
 - (b) The interactive database for the Joint 2020 ECE/FAO/Forest Europe pan-European data collection on forests, and
 - (c) INForest, the interactive data and knowledge platform on forests and sustainable forest management in the UNECE region (<https://forest-data.unece.org/>).
- UNECE and FAO initiated a review process of the 2020 data collection, including a webinar on stakeholders reporting needs, organized in April 2021 with the participation of a broad set of national and international stakeholders.
- Almost forty countries from the UNECE region responded to the comprehensive survey on national forest disturbance and damage reporting systems and shared their views on the future international reporting in this regard. The results will serve as the basis for the development of the assessment of, and reporting guidance on forest damage in the region.

2. Impact

- Improved information and understanding of key forest product commodities;
- Improved knowledge and capacity of countries to assess the development of their domestic forest products markets in the global context;
- Increased knowledge and understanding of the status of forests and their dynamics as well as on trends in their use and management; Improved formats and methods for sharing forest-related information beyond traditional users in the forest sector, in particular among the public at large;
- Improved information and understanding on forest damage and disturbance in the UNECE region; Increased national capacity to monitor forest disturbance/damage and to develop and implement related tools.

B. WA2: Policy advice and dialogue:

1. Highlighted outputs

- The UNECE/FAO Forest Sector Outlook Study in the UNECE region was published. It provides a comprehensive policy outlook for the forest sector, including trends and challenges up to the year 2040.

- The peer-to-peer learning roundtable “Snapshot on Boreal forests' contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals” took place during the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the UNECE region, 15 March 2021. A brochure on Boreal forest and SDGs was developed and published.
- The UNECE event “The Science and Policy of Wildfires in the Boreal Biome” took place on 19 August 2021 as part of the International Boreal Forest Research Association Conference, discussing the role of climate change on disturbance regimes in boreal forests. In the run up to COP26, an infographic on boreal forests and climate change was developed for social media.
- The Joint Section finalized a study on circular bio-economy concepts and how they relate to forest-based industries. The study focuses on key forest-based value chains, namely: the woodworking industry, including sawn wood, bioenergy and construction, the furniture industry, the paper and pulp industry, cellulose-based fibres, and cellulose-based plastics.

2. Impact

- Improved understanding among member States of how climate change and global megatrends may influence their domestic forests and wood products markets in the future;
- Improved awareness of the importance of boreal forests for climate action and sustainable development (more than 10,000 people engaged on social media);
- Improved collaboration with boreal-related research organizations (e.g. participation and engagement in the IBFRA Insight process);
- Strengthened science-policy cooperation – more than 30 science and policy experts gathered to discuss boreal-related challenges and opportunities for collaboration;
- Improved knowledge of member States of circularity related concepts in forest-based industries.

C. WA3: Communications and outreach:

1. Highlighted outputs

- The International Day of Forests (IDF) on 21 March 2021 was celebrated under the theme “Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being”. The Joint Section launched the video “Forests in a Nutshell”¹ explaining how responsibly sourced nuts from sustainably managed forests and agroforestry can enrich our diets and contribute to our health and well-being.
- 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 sustainable development and resilience, has grown to 30 participating cities from 25 countries in 2021. In 2021, peer exchange and dialogue organized as part of this initiative informed the elaboration of a brief for policymakers entitled “Advancing Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ukshFP0Ddg>

Forestry – A Green Approach to Resilience, Health, and Green Recovery.” An Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry was also established, to facilitate continued peer exchange and dialogue among participating cities and experts, to support sustainable urban forestry over the long term.

- The Forests4Fashion Sports Challenge, a voluntary initiative aimed at the World of Sports, including sports events' organizers, committees, athletes, sportswear brands, producers and consumers, was launched in October 2021 by the Executive Secretary of UNECE. Its goal is to advance circularity and sustainability in sports, by encouraging the reuse of sportswear where possible, and promoting the use of renewable fibres from responsible sources.
- The 6th European Forest Week took place under the theme “Future of Forests” featuring seven virtual side events on a wide range of topics, including urban and peri-urban forest ecosystems, non-wood forest products, career opportunities for forestry graduates, European cooperation to prevent great forest fires and how wood could be used for carbon capture and storage technology. More than 250 participants from all over the world took part in these discussions.
- UNECE together with FAO developed “INForest”²- an interactive online data and knowledge platform for forests in the UNECE region, aimed at improving access to relevant and reliable data on forest conditions and use for their protection and sustainable management. The platform provides the most up-to-date information on forests and their changes over the past decades, including in forest area, structure, products and services, as well as the forests’ contribution to the economy, environment and health. The data presented is compiled from international, reliable sources including the Sustainable Development Goals indicators, FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment and thematic sets collected by UNECE and FAO.

2. Impact

- Under the Trees in Cities Challenge, cities reported planting over 8 million trees to date.
- The INForest data and knowledge platform has become the go-to website for up-to-date information on forests and changes in forest area, structure, products and services, thereby ensuring the timely, reliable, and high-quality data availability for all.

D. WA4: Capacity-building:

8. 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

- In support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Joint Section organized a Ministerial Meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration and the ECCA30/Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe. During the meeting,

² <https://forest-data.unece.org/>

countries adopted the ECCA30 Ministerial Declaration, which stresses the need for voluntary and measurable forest landscape restoration commitments. In addition, a study was presented which identifies key drivers of forest degradation and the potential for forest landscape restoration in 17 countries of Eastern and South-East Europe. Pledges to restore more than 4 million hectares of forest landscape were announced during the meeting.

- During the European Forest Week side event “Achievements – challenges – aspirations for forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia”, 35 experts from Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan discussed their progress on forest landscape restoration since the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration, which took place in 2018.
- Six capacity building workshops were conducted with member States to inform on potential of forest landscape restoration, financing opportunities for FLR and forest policy development opportunities with the support of UNECE/FAO Joint Forestry and Timber Section in order to respond to current challenges in forestry.

2. Impact

- Countries in Eastern and South-East Europe committed to restore more than 4 million hectares of land by 2030. This brings total pledges in the UNECE region under the ECCA30 initiative to more than 7 million ha.

III. Major activities planned for 2022 and beyond

9. The following planned activities highlight key themes that address some of the major challenges facing the forestry sector.

10. The new Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025 covers the same work areas as the previous one, with new activities highlighted below.

11. A more detailed listing of activities is provided in the Approved List of Activities for 2022 in Annex II of this document.

A. WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment:

12. Focused analysis will be devoted to the monitoring and assessment of forest conditions and the impact of biotic and abiotic disturbances. 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. A scientific workshop on this topic will be held in Vienna, Austria.

13. UNECE, jointly with FAO and Forest Europe, will start the preparatory process for the 2025 cycle of the global and regional data collection on forests and sustainable forest management. As a first step, the interactive national data collection interface will be developed. The format of the interface will depend on the availability of funding.

14. The Joint Section will initiate a project to improve national capacity to apply Forest Policy and Management Support Information Systems (FPMSIS) in forest governance and management. Through the project, countries will be provided with the knowledge and tools to analyze their needs in developing their national FPMSIS.

B. WA2: Policy advice and dialogue:

15. As boreal forests globally face increasing challenges due to climate change and human impacts, the Joint Section will continue to elevate the profile of boreal forests in international forest policy discussions by organizing a Ministerial Meeting on Boreal Forests back-to-back with the 80th session of COFFI. The Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests will continue its efforts to further streamline science and policy cooperation on boreal forests, and increase collaboration with the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) and other boreal-related research organizations.

16. The Joint Section will continue to disseminate the Forest Sector Outlook study and thereby help forest managers and policy-makers consider the trade-offs involved in complex forest management decisions.

17. The Joint Section will continue working on studies further reviewing the application of circular models in specific forest-based industries, and how they apply to the goals of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. The Joint Section will also initiate work on a definition of a circular bioeconomy in the forest sector, based on existing definitions.

C. WA3: Communications and outreach:

18. Communication 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.

19. If funds are available, the Trees in Cities Challenge will continue to 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.

20. The International Day of Forests will be celebrated under the theme "Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption" on 22 March 2022.

21. The Forests4Fashion Sports Challenge will continue to engage sports events organizers and sportswear brands to influence their production and consumption patterns.

D. WA4: Capacity-building:

22. 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:

- 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. In particular, this will include:
 - A knowledge exchange platform on forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia region;

- A set of policy-guiding principles for development of national Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia region, including virtual coaching sessions;
- A feasibility study on the production of regeneration material in Moldova and its development in the context of national plans for afforestation and forest landscape restoration.
- Further capacity building events on forest landscape restoration and policy development.

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

23. During its seventy-ninth session the Committee:
- Adopted the Programme of Work of the Forests and Forest Industry Subprogramme for 2022, as contained in document ECE/TIM/2021/9-FO:EFC/2021/9.
 - Adopted the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) 2022–2025, as contained in Annex II of ECE/TIM/2021/2-FO:EFC/2021/2.
 - Agreed to extend the mandates of the following Team of Specialists (ToS) for the period 2022–2023:
 - ToS on Boreal Forests;
 - ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management;
 - ToS on Sustainable Forest Products;
 - ToS on Forest Communication.
 - Approved the merging of the ToS on Wood Energy and the ToS on Forest Products Statistics and with it the new Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics as contained in Annex II.
 - Decided not to seek an extension for the mandate of the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook for the duration of the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025, given the completion of the Forest Sector Outlook Study 2021. Work on dissemination of the results of the outlook study and related capacity building activities will be continued by the Joint Section.
24. The Executive Committee is invited to approve the above-mentioned decisions.

V. Follow up to the 2021 session of the Economic Commission for Europe

25. During the 79th session of COFFI, delegates were informed about decisions adopted by the UNECE at its sixty-ninth session held in Geneva, Switzerland from 20 to 21 April 2021 that are relevant to the new Integrated Program of Work. In particular, delegates took note of the high-level statement, which requests the relevant Sectoral Committees to consider how to enhance the impact of relevant existing UNECE instruments, in order to foster circular and more resource efficient approaches, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance and good practices.

26. Under the Committee on Forests and Forest Industry and within the existing mandates, the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, in cooperation with other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector, has worked on a number of products relevant to a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources. The work covers practically the whole material and production chains, and includes the:

- Collection of statistical data on status of forests, their sustainable management, and the use of forest based natural resources;
- Analysis of the past and future trends, including forest sector outlook studies, of the use of natural resources;
- Development of methods and tools and strengthening member States to foster circular and more resource-efficient approaches;
- Development communication campaigns, promoting sustainable materials, products and their use.

27. In addition to the work on sustainable management and use of natural resources, the Joint Section has also initiated work focused on a circularity forest sector. The recently issued study on “Circularity concepts in forest-based industries” provides an analysis of the existing and possible limitations to circular approaches in forest-based industries. The study is available at <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/Circularity%20concepts%20in%20forest-based%20industries.1108.pdf>.

28. The work on circular economy and the sustainable use of forest resources under the Committee on Forests and Forest Industry has been further strengthened through a mandate in the new Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025, where the Committee has asked the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to:

- Prepare a series of studies further reviewing the application of circular models in specific forest-based industries, and how they apply to Paris Agreement goals and SDGs, including through identification of case studies and best practice;
- Take into consideration the whole forest-based value chain and bring attention to the circular nature of wood as a renewable resource and the role of sustainable forest management;
- In light of the lack of an international definition of “circular economy”, continue its work on circularity in the forest sector, and work with other subprogrammes to address this definition gap;
- Assess member States’ priorities and needs in application of circular models in the forest sector, as appropriate;
- Provide opportunities for member States to exchange knowledge and best practice on the implementation of circularity principles in the forest sector.

29. The work under the Committee on Forests and Forest Industry will be reinforced by the activities of its subsidiary bodies, the joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and the Teams of Specialists, providing a platform for replicating and scaling up knowledge on a range of topics relevant to a circular economy and the sustainable use of forest resources.

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

30. 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 contributed to the work of the “UNECE Task Force on measuring the circular economy” - on the conceptual monitoring framework and development of a circular economy definition.
- 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.

VII. Technical cooperation activities

31. 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.

VIII. Cooperation with other organizations

32. 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 (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Central African Forest Commission and the International Tropical Timber Organization) 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 (ITTO) 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 Bonn and contributes to many actions of the Forest Europe Work Programme, including the joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe forest data collection and the 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, supported by 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 (FAO) and the European Commission (EC) is finishing the current 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: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, International Trade Centre, FAO, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the 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 organized an informal policy dialogue on fashion in Moldova on 19 May 2021.
- The Joint Section worked with ILO and FAO on the delivery of the publication "Occupational Safety and Health and the Future of Work in Forestry" (expected early 2022).
- The Joint Section worked with IUCN on preparation of the Ministerial Meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration and the ECCA30/Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe (within the Bonn Challenge/ECCA30 initiative) which took place on 12 October 2021.
- The Joint Section supports international work and cooperation on monitoring of forest resources and sustainable forest management, including Forest Europe, the European Union (i.e., Eurostat, the European Environment Agency, and the Joint Research Centre), and other organizations (i.e., the Confederation of European Forest Owners, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the European Forest Institute, and European State Forest Association) 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 such as the "Future of Forests" panel session which took place on 22 November 2021.
- Finally, COFFI and the Joint Section 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 Teams of Specialists on Boreal Forests and Monitoring SFM and their ability to build an interface between the science and policy community are cases in point.

Annex I

Key deliverables and events of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and its secretariat (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 sustainable economy

- (i) 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;
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) Dissemination of the results of the 2020 global and the pan-European reporting on forests and SFM; contribution to development of INForest;
- (iv) 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 sustainable economy

- (i) 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;
- (ii) Development of five policy briefs on Criteria and Indicators on Sustainable Forest Management and their application;
- (iii) Publication of the study “Reporting on Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”.

(c) Cooperation and support to international SFM processes, including regional criteria and indicator processes

- (i) Participation in the FAO FRA Advisory Group;
- (ii) Support to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) secretariat on reporting the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030;
- (iii) Cooperation and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe) in the ECE region on monitoring SFM;
- (iv) Contribution to capacity building on forest monitoring in countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and South-East Europe;
- (v) Organization of meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM, 2 December 2020 and 21 April 2021, online.

2. Forest products and markets

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

- (i) Preparation of historical data on forest products, species trade, and prices;
- (ii) Preparation of forecast data on forest products production and trade;
- (iii) Improvement of the existing database and expansion of available information, contribution to development of INForest;
- (iv) 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

- (i) Publication of the FPAMR 2020-2021;
- (ii) Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2020-2021;
- (iii) Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2021-2022;
- (iv) Preparation of the Market Discussion 2021 and the Market Statement 2021;
- (v) Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings.

(c) Support of international processes in forest products

- i. Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;
- ii. Organization of meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics, 13 April 2021, online.

3. Wood energy

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

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

(b) Support of international processes in wood energy

- (i) 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.);
- (ii) Organization of a meeting of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Wood Energy, 16 November 2020, online.

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

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

- (i) Monitoring of developments in global and regional forest policy process (UNFF; Forest Europe, SDG) and contributions, as relevant, to these processes;

(ii) Support the continued implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests by providing policy dialogues at the regional and national levels.

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

- (i) Preparation of a study on “Circularity concepts in forest-based industries”;
- (ii) Preparation of a catalogue of wood waste classifications in the ECE region;
- (iii) Exploration of the issue of wood-based value chains in a circular bio-economy;
- (iv) Preparing an analysis of circularity of cellulose-based personal protection equipment following the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (v) Presentation of the key findings of the study on “Circularity concepts in forest-based industries” at the Annual Conference of the Forest Products Society (15-17 June 2021);
- (vi) Contributing to the ECE publication on “Measuring the Circular Economy”.
- (vii) Contributing to the circular bio-economy components of the FAO State of the World’s Forests (SOFO) 2022 publication;
- (viii) Promotion and dissemination of the social dimension of circular bio-economy;
- (ix) Preparation of a joint ECE/FAO/ILO study on social dimensions of a circular bio-economy.

(c) Forest Sector Outlook

- (i) Finalization of the Forest Sector Outlook Study;
- (ii) Dissemination of the Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region, including 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;

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

- (i) Organization of the Ministerial Meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration in support of the Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South East Europe on 12 October 2021, online;
- (ii) Launch of the publication “Forest landscape restoration in Eastern and South-East Europe” during the Ministerial Meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration;
- (iii) Organization of a follow-up meeting for the Caucasus and Central Asia on Forest Landscape Restoration in the region and implementation of the Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening Infrastructure.

(e) Boreal Forests

- (i) Organization of two virtual meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests, on 8 February 2021 and 23 June 2021;
- (ii) Organization of a virtual roundtable event “Snapshot on Boreal Forests’ Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals” on 15 March 2021 as part of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the ECE region; Dissemination

of an infographic on “Boreal Forests and Climate Change” on the occasion of World Environment Day;

(iii) Preparation of several communications products to be published in 2021 and 2022;

(iv) Contribution of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists to the peer-review process of the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) Insight Study.

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

(a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of SFM and forest products and services

(i) International Day of Forests (IDF), 21 March 2021: launch of the video “Forests in a Nutshell” explaining how responsibly sourced nuts from sustainably managed forests and agroforestry can enrich our diets and contribute to our health and well-being;

(ii) Organisation of awareness-raising events on the dissemination of information on ECCA30;

(iii) Organization of the Forest Week 2020, 2-6 November 2020, including the SDG 15 Day on 2 November 2020, a screening of the forest episode of “Our Planet” documentary jointly with UNEP, and the launch of an exhibition on Forest Biodiversity in collaboration with the Russian Geographical Society.

(iv) Communicating the potential of forest landscape restoration in the ECE region through various events and exhibitions;

(v) Communicating the potential of sustainable wood products in the circular bio-economy across sectors through various events and exhibitions;

(vi) Webinar on “Building and renovation solutions to meet 21st Century climate change, affordability, energy and sustainability criteria”; 23 November 2020;

(vii) Communication campaigns (e.g. ECCA30, Trees in Cities Challenge, Forests for Fashion initiative);

(viii) Regular issuing of Forest Information Billboard.

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

(i) Promotion and dissemination of studies and publications, including of five policy briefs on Criteria and Indicators on Sustainable Forest Management, 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;

(ii) Development and promotion of INForest – data and knowledge platform on forests and forest sector in the ECE region (link <https://forest-data.unece.org/>), launched on 23 March 2021;

(iii) Dissemination of an infographic on boreal forests and climate change and a communications brief titled “Why boreal forests matter - the role of boreal forests in sustainable development”;

(iv) Dissemination of a video titled “Forests for Food: From Food Deserts to Food Forests” on the occasion of the Food Systems Summit on 23 September 2021;

- (v) Press releases published in 2021 (as of 11 August 2021): “By-products and residues form an increasing part of wood energy consumed in the UNECE region, says UNECE/FAO” (15 January); “Urban trees and forests in the spotlight as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration commences” (29 January); “UNECE, FAO and Forest Europe join forces to promote green jobs in the forest sector” (4 March); “Forests in a nutshell: discover the lesser-known story behind some of your favourite dishes on International Day of Forests!” (19 March); “UNECE launches new data platform for forests in the region” (23 March); ““People-smart” and “cities-based” approach to sustainable development is key, urges UNECE report” (19 April); “UNECE calls for integrated and sustainable natural resource use through a “nexus”; approach” (19 April); “More “joined-up” approaches to measure and monitor sustainability are needed to sharpen policies in UNECE region” (19 April); “Moscow joins the Trees in Cities Challenge, bringing planting pledges to around 11 million trees” (4 May); “Discover the stories behind the best photographs of UNECE global photo contest “Humans locked down: Nature unlocked”” (4 June);
- (vi) News releases published in 2021 (as of 11 August 2021): “Experts highlight the boreal biome’s contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals” (16 March); “UN Alliance supports Moldova’s efforts to turn its fashion industry into a driver of sustainable development” (26 May).

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

(a) Forest landscape restoration:

- (i) 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);
- (ii) Supporting the development of a policy framework on forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

(b) Organization of capacity-building workshops on:

- (i) Capacity-building workshop on monitoring Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia countries, 9 December 2020, online;
- (ii) Organization of an online training for national correspondents to the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire, in close cooperation with FAO, (February 2021) with a follow-up Q&A session in May 2021;
- (iii) Capacity-building workshop on developing financing strategy for implementation of the Bonn Challenge commitments in Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (iv) Organization of a virtual capacity building event on national forest sector modelling for experts from CIS countries, 17-18 November 2020.

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

Organization of a virtual meeting of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector, 16 November 2020.

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

(a) Intergovernmental Meetings

(i) Organization of the 42nd session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, 22-24 March 2021, hybrid (Geneva, Switzerland and online);

(ii) Organization of the Joint Session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and European Forestry Commission in Rome, Italy (22-25 November 2021).

(b) Bureaux Meetings

Organization of Joint Bureaux meetings, virtual (08 February 2021, 12 May 2021).

(c) Strategic review 2020-2021

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

Annex II: Approved list of activities for 2022

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

33. 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 sustainable economy

(i) 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 preparation of the data collection for the 2025 reporting process;

(ii) Joint pan-European reporting on forests: cooperation with Forest Europe and FAO FRA secretariat on the preparation of the next reporting cycle (subject to the agreement with partners);

(iii) Cooperation with member States, and other national and international partners on the exchange of information and the development forest information systems, including national forest data banks;

(iv) Dissemination of the results of the 2020 global and the pan-European reporting on forests and SFM.

(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 sustainable 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, including the organization of a scientific-technical workshop in Vienna, Austria.

(c) Cooperation and support to international SFM processes, including regional criteria and indicator processes

(i) Participation in the FAO FRA Advisory Group;

- (ii) Support to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) secretariat on reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030;
- (iii) Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe) in the ECE region on monitoring SFM;
- (iv) Contribution to capacity building on forest monitoring in countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and South-East Europe;
- (v) Organization of the meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM³.

34. **2. Forest products and markets**

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

- (i) Preparation of historical data on forest products, species trade, and prices;
- (ii) Preparation of forecast data on forest products production and trade;
- (iii) Improvement of the existing database and expansion of available information;
- (iv) 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

- (i) Publication of the FPAMR 2021-2022;
- (ii) Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2021-2022;
- (iii) Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2022-2023;
- (iv) Preparation of the Market Discussion 2022 and the Market Statement 2022;
- (v) Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings.

(c) Support of international processes in forest products

- (i) Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;
- (ii) Organization of meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics and the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products⁴.

35. **3. Wood energy**

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

- (i) Analysis of results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) 2019;
- (ii) Issuance of a new database on wood energy with 2019 data (JWEE2019);
- (iii) Dissemination of the JWEE2019 data at relevant international meetings;

³ Pending approval of mandate contained in the new Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025.

⁴ Pending approval of mandate contained in the new Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025.

(iv) Revision of the JWEE for collecting 2021 data (JWEE2021);

(v) Launch of the JWEE 2021 questionnaire.

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

(i) 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;

(ii) Upon request provide 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.).

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

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

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

(ii) Monitoring and developments in global and regional forest policy process (UNFF; Forest Europe, SDG) and contributions, as relevant, to these processes;

(iii) Support to 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

(i) Analysing how the circular bio-economy concepts are related to the forest-based sector⁵;

(ii) Exploration of wood-based value chains in a circular bio-economy⁶;

(iii) Promotion and dissemination of information about the circular bio-economy, including its social dimension.

(c) Forest Sector Outlook

(i) Dissemination of the Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region;

(ii) 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.

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

Organization of a follow-up meeting for the Caucasus and Central Asia on Forest Landscape Restoration in the region and implementation of the Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening Infrastructure in Caucasus and Central Asia.

⁵ Depending on the decision of the Joint Session of COFFI and EFC in autumn 2021.

⁶ Depending on the decision of the Joint Session of COFFI and EFC in autumn 2021.

(e) Boreal Forests

- (i) Organization of meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests⁷;
- (ii) Preparation of policy briefs and communication material to promote the importance of boreal forests for climate action and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (iii) Organization of a science-policy dialogue event;
- (iv) Conducting data collection and analysis of common challenges, gaps, and best practices on boreal forest management.

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

(a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of SFM and forest products and services

- (i) International Day of Forests (IDF) to be celebrated on 21 March 2022, Geneva, Switzerland;
- (ii) Side event at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF16), May 2022, New York, United States of America;
- (iii) Communicating the potential of forest landscape restoration in ECE region through various events;
- (iv) Communicating the potential of sustainable wood products in contributing to SDG12 through various events and exhibitions;
- (v) 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

- (i) Promotion and dissemination of studies and publications;
- (ii) Promotion of the web site INForest on forest-statistics: <https://forest-data.unece.org/> in meetings and press releases;
- (iii) Dissemination of the Forest Information Billboard.

(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 on the margins of main forest related as well as cross-sectional meetings.

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

(a) Improving national capacities of middle-income countries to implement Sustainable Forest Management:

⁷ Pending approval of mandate contained in the new Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025.

- (i) Communication with countries on their technical cooperation needs;
- (ii) Organization and implementation of technical cooperation activities; raising of extrabudgetary funds as necessary;
- (iii) Coordination of technical cooperation of the sub-programme within ECE and FAO, communication with other international entities (particularly United Nations) and national partners.

(b) Strengthening capacity of policy and decisions makers, and forest service specialists to develop national forest policy and management support information systems in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia:

- (i) Organization of the work and initiation of the project;
- (ii) Drafting the guidance for developing forest policy and management support information systems.

(c) Organization of capacity-building workshops on:

- (i) Wood energy data collection for national correspondents (Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2021);
- (ii) Forest products statistics for national correspondents to the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire;
- (iii) Sustainable Forest Management with a focus on non-wood forest products and services, if requested;
- (iv) Urban and peri-urban trees and forests;
- (v) Forest landscape restoration in the ECE region in support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;
- (vi) Forest sector modelling (depending on requests of countries and the resources of the Secretariat).

E. Secretariat services to its governing bodies and their subsidiary body

(a) Intergovernmental Meetings

- (i) Organization of the 43rd session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management in 2022;
- (ii) Organization of the 80th Session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in 2022.

(b) Bureaux Meetings

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

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