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**Food and Agriculture Organization
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Economic Commission for Europe

Food and Agriculture Organization

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

European Forestry Commission

**Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management**

Forty-fourth session

Geneva, 31 May – 2 June 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

**Annotated provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of
the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and
Management**

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations Geneva, starting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 31 May 2023.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising since the last session:
 - (a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies;
 - (b) Recent developments in other organizations.
3. Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party.
4. Thematic focus:
 - (a) Forest damage;
 - (b) Wood energy;
 - (c) Draft regional urban forestry opportunity plan;
 - (d) Digital transformation of forest data collection, processing and dissemination.
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. Overview on forest and forest sector related work by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that are not covered by the integrated programme of work.
 7. Integrated Programme of Work review process.
 8. Election of officers.
 9. Date and place of next meeting.
 10. Any other business.
 11. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/1

The meeting of the forty-fourth session of the Joint United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (Joint Working Party) will adopt the agenda of the meeting.

2. Matters arising since the last session

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2022/2

Documentation: E/ECE/1503

(a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will present developments at the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) having an impact on the work of the Joint Working Party.

(b) Recent developments in other organizations

Other organizations will be invited to provide information about their activities and any developments with an impact on the work of the Joint Working Party.

3. Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/3 Draft Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party

The Joint Working Party is currently operating under the ECE Rules of Procedure. In line with 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), subsidiary bodies are invited to develop their own rules of procedure.

At the forty-third session of the Joint Working Party from 1-3 June 2022, in response to the request by member States, the secretariat presented a draft set of Rules of Procedure. The Joint Working Party took note of the draft text, proposed several amendments and requested the secretariat to upload the revised version to the meeting website as a post-session document. Document ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/3 contains the text with the proposed amendments.

The Joint Working Party will be invited to adopt the rules of procedure or decide on the way forward.

4. Thematic focus

(a) Forest damage

Delegates will be informed about the results of the project “Improve capacities of the UNECE member States on assessing forest damage/disturbance in the UNECE region”, implemented in 2021-2022, including key findings from the scientific-technical symposium on forest disturbance, organized in Vienna, Austria on 29-30 September 2022. The secretariat will share conclusions from the project, including the possible follow-up activities aimed at improving forest disturbance and damage reporting in the region.

The Joint Working Party is invited to:

- (i) Take note of the information provided;
- (ii) Discuss results and findings from the project;
- (iii) Provide feedback on possible follow up work.

(b) Wood energy

The Market Discussion at the eightieth session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry highlighted wood energy as one of the fastest evolving sectors of forest products. On 18 January 2023, the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section launched the data collection on wood energy sources and use for the reference year 2021. The secretariat will present first results of the data collection and the support provided to member States to improve their capacities to collect better data. In addition, the secretariat will also present an extended set of wood energy indicators developed over the past year with the substantive support from the Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics for inclusion in the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE).

The Joint Working Party is invited to:

- (i) Take note of the information and provide feedback on the JWEE data collection process and related capacity-building activities by the secretariat;
- (ii) Discuss and provide feedback on the proposed new set of additional wood energy indicators;
- (iii) Provide guidance on whether the JWEE should be made an annual exercise and consider relevant resources to the secretariat (financial or in-kind).

(c) Draft regional urban forestry opportunity plan

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/4 Draft regional urban forestry opportunity plan

The secretariat will inform delegates about the draft regional urban forestry opportunity plan, which was developed under a project and which the eightieth Session of COFFI recommended be presented for consideration at the next joint session of the eighty-first session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and forty-second session of the FAO European Forestry Commission in November 2023.

In preparation thereof, the Joint Working Party is invited to comment on the plan and transmit it to the joint session of the eighty-first session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and forty-second session of the FAO European Forestry Commission in November 2023 for possible adoption.

(d) Digital transformation of forest data collection, processing and dissemination

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/INF.1 – Revising data flow, storage, processing and presentation

The secretariat will present its projects to improve its forest data collection, processing and dissemination. These projects are in line with the 2022 Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere. The presentation will include:

- (i) The development of the interactive interface for the Joint Pan-European Data Collection on forests and sustainable forest management process. The interface is closely linked with the one prepared for the 2025 cycle of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA);
- (ii) An update on its comprehensive approach to the implementation of information technology to improve data collection, storage, analysis, and dissemination as part of a new central data repository, with development expected to begin with the data module linked to the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire.

The secretariat will invite interested member States to share their national tools for modern and efficient data content and data flow in an interactive group work session.

The Joint Working Party is invited to:

- (i) Take note of the data collection of the Joint Pan-European Data Collection and the Global Forest Resources Assessment;
- (ii) Provide feedback, guidance and possible resources for the secretariat's data strategy and related work;
- (iii) Engage in the interactive group discussions and consider presenting national cases.

5. Guidance on work areas

Delegates are invited to review activities since the forty-third session of the Working Party, and comment on future work plans for 2023 to provide guidance to the Teams of Specialists and the secretariat. The leaders or a designated member of the Teams of Specialists will present together with the Teams' secretaries, their work and preview activities in the remaining months under the current mandate (until the end 2023).

The two meeting documents prepared by the secretariat provide a concise overview of the work areas and cover the period from May 2022 to May 2023. Additional work will be presented in session. The main points for discussion are outlined in the two secretariat reports of the specific work area.

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

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/5 Note by the secretariat - Work Area 1 and Work Area 2

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/INF.2 Report by the Teams of Specialists

The secretariat, together with the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, the Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics and the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products, will update the Joint Working Party on work and planned activities for 2023 and 2024, in the areas of reporting on forests, forest management, forest products, wood energy statistics and markets and the analysis thereof.

(b) Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/5 Note by the secretariat - Work Area 1 and Work Area 2

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/INF.2 Report by the Teams of Specialists

The secretariat will update the Joint Working Party on policy dialogue work, the forest sector outlook work and planned activities for 2023 and 2024.

Under this agenda item, the Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests will provide a brief overview of its work.

(c) Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/6 Note by the secretariat - Work Area 3 and Work Area 4

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/INF.2 Report by the Teams of Specialists

The secretariat will update the Joint Working Party on communication and outreach work as well as planned activities for 2023/2024.

The Team of Specialists on Forest Communication (Forest Communicators' Network) will be invited to present its activities on promoting the work of the Integrated Programme of Work.

(d) Work Area 4: Capacity-building

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/6 Note by the secretariat - Work Area 3 and Work Area 4

The secretariat will update the Joint Working Party on capacity-building work and planned

activities for 2023/2024.

6. Overview on forest and forest sector related work by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that are not covered by the integrated programme of work

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2022/5

According to the mandate given by the Joint session of the seventy-fifth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and thirty-ninth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission in 2017 (ECE/TIM/2017/2–FO:EFC/2017/2) Annex I para 4, the secretariat will invite ECE and FAO secretariats to present to the Joint Working Party an overview of forest and forest products related activities in the ECE region in 2023. The Joint Working Party is invited to take note of the forest and forest product related activities by ECE and FAO in the ECE region not covered by the integrated programme of work and to inform the Joint Session should they detect any overlap in activities.

7. Integrated Programme of Work review process

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/INF.3 Options for the review process of the Integrated Programme of Work

The secretariat will present possible options for the review process of the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW).

The Joint Working Party is invited to discuss the proposed options and indicate their preference for transmission to the Joint session.

8. Election of officers

The Joint Working Party is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. At its forty-third session, the Joint Working Party re-elected Ms. Magdalena Wolicka-Posiadała (Poland) as Chair, Mr. Matthias Dieter (Germany) and Mr. Michal Synek (Czech Republic) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of the forty-fourth session.

9. Date and place of next meeting

The secretariat will inform member States about the date and place of the forty-fifth session.

10. Any other business

None at the time of writing.

11. Adoption of the report

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