



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Global and Regional Forest- related Processes and Initiatives

Agenda item 4a

**Joint Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and
the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry
Commission**

San Marino, 20-23 November 2023



Mandate and the content

- In 2023 COFFI/EFC Bureaux requested the secretariat to prepare a descriptive table outlining forest work initiatives in the international forest arena.
- The secretariat prepared the document ECE/TIM/2023/3–FAO:EFC/2023/3 which includes:
 - Overview at global and regional levels
 - Annex I, containing international and regional forest related work, processes and initiatives
 - Annex II, containing non-exhaustive list of other relevant stakeholder organizations
- The document does not analyze the roles and functions of COFFI and EFC

Overview of international forest policy processes

- Legally binding multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as the CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD, and trade agreements (e.g. International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA));
- Non-legally binding agreements on international trade in forest products, such as the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT)) and measures like the New York and Glasgow Declarations on Forests and Land Use;
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) and its five component: the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its Member States, the UNFF Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), and the UNFF Trust Fund.

Overview of international forest policy processes

- The UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF 2020-2023), in 2017;
- SFM criteria and indicators processes, such as through Forest Europe and the Montreal Process;
- Bonn Challenge and Forest Landscape Restoration;
- The Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) to reduce commodity-driven tropical deforestation;
- IUCN's Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration;
- Forest Certification: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC);
- Legality of international timber trade: European Unions (EU) FLEGT initiative and EU Deforestation Regulation on deforestation-free products.

Overview of regional forest policy processes

- Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Forest Europe);
- Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS);
- Bern Convention (1982), focus on the conservation of European wildlife and habitats;
- European Landscape Convention; Alpine and Carpathian Conventions;
- Convention on the European Forest Institute (EFI);
- EU policy instruments: (a) the EU Forest Strategy (b) the EU Timber Regulation, as part of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan; (c) the EU Deforestation Regulation on deforestation-free products (d) the European Green Deal; (e) the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and national Rural Development Programmes.

Overview of sub-regional forest policy processes

- **USA:** (i) the National Forest Management Act, (ii) the Endangered Species Act; (iii) the Clean Water Act; (iv) the Healthy Forests Initiative, (v) the Forest Legacy Program;
- **Canada:** (i) the Crown Lands, (ii) the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (voluntary, SFM in the boreal forest); (iii) the Species at Risk Act; (iv) the Canadian Environmental Protection Act; and (v) the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act;
- **The Russian Federation:** (i) the Forest Code of the Russian Federation, (ii) the State Forest Management Plans, which guides SFM, such as timber extraction.

Emerging trends for the forest sector

- The One Forest Summit and the Libreville Plan;
- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) work relevant for forests;
- The recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the GEF ‘game-changing’ fund to finance the implementation of the framework;
- The forthcoming sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the seventh Global Environment Outlook (GEO7).

Point for Considerations

The Commission and the Committee within their existing mandates may wish to request to:

- (a) monitor current and emerging forest-related work and processes;
- (b) review the impact of the new processes and work on the work of the Committee and Commission.



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Thank you

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