



# Consejo Económico y Social

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Organización de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Alimentación y la Agricultura

## Comisión Económica para Europa

## Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura

### Comité de Bosques y de la Industria Forestal

### Comisión Forestal Europea

#### 79.ª reunión

Roma, 22-25 de noviembre de 2021

Tema 6 del programa provisional

**Aprobación del informe de la reunión conjunta**

#### 41.ª reunión

Roma, 22-25 de noviembre de 2021

## Informe de la 79.ª reunión del Comité de Bosques y de la Industria Forestal de la Comisión Económica para Europa y de la 41.ª reunión de la Comisión Forestal Europea de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura

### I. Introducción

1. La reunión conjunta del Comité de Bosques y de la Industria Forestal de la Comisión Económica de las Naciones Unidas para Europa (CEPE) en su 79.ª reunión y la Comisión Forestal Europea (CFE) de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO) en su 41.ª reunión —Forestat2021— tuvo lugar en Roma (Italia) y por medios virtuales, del 22 al 25 de noviembre de 2021. En paralelo a la reunión conjunta se celebró la sexta Semana Forestal Europea, que se centró en el futuro de los bosques.

2. En la página web de esta reunión<sup>1</sup> se ofrecen información adicional, los documentos relativos a las reuniones y las presentaciones realizadas (cuyos contenido y conclusiones no forman parte del presente informe).

### II. Asistencia

3. En la reunión conjunta participaron delegaciones de los 38 Estados miembros siguientes: Alemania, Armenia, Austria, Bélgica, Bulgaria, Canadá, Croacia, Chipre, Eslovaquia, Eslovenia, España, Estados Unidos de América, Estonia, Federación de Rusia, Finlandia, Francia, Georgia, Irlanda, Italia, Kirguistán, Letonia, Lituania, Malta, Montenegro, Noruega, Países Bajos, Polonia, Portugal, Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte, Chequia, República de Moldova, Rumania, Serbia, Suecia, Suiza, Turquía, Ucrania, Uzbekistán.

<sup>1</sup> <https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/357375>

4. Participaron representantes de la FAO.
5. Los representantes de la Unión Europea participaron como observadores<sup>2</sup>.
6. Los representantes del Instituto Forestal Europeo y Forest Europe participaron como observadores.
7. Las siguientes organizaciones no gubernamentales asistieron en calidad de observadores: la Organización Africana de Jóvenes en Agronegocios, el Comité de Organizaciones Profesionales Agrícolas y la Confederación General de Cooperativas Agrícolas (Copa Cogeca), la Confederación Europea de Industrias de la Madera (CEI-Bois), el Consejo de Manejo Forestal, el Programa de Reconocimiento de Sistemas de Certificación Forestal (PECF), Quebec Wood Export Bureau, la Iniciativa de Bosque Sostenible (SFI), el Instituto Ucraniano de Investigación sobre Silvicultura y Mejora Forestal, que lleva el nombre del Sr. G. M. Vysotsky (URIFFM), la Unión de Silvicultores Europeos (UEF).
8. Varios representantes de otras organizaciones, el sector privado, entidades locales, el sector académico y medios de comunicación asistieron en calidad de observadores: Bloom Biorenewable, Centro de Ecología y Productividad Forestales de la Academia Rusa de Ciencias, la Confederación de industrias papeleras europeas (CEPI), el Departamento de Ciencias Forestales, la Red de investigación sobre políticas forestales del Instituto Forestal Europeo (EFI), la Organización Europea de Aserraderos, la Facultad de Agricultura y Silvicultura, Forest Sector Insights AB, Hawthorn Advisors, Escuela Superior de Tecnología y Energía de la Universidad Estatal de Tecnología y Diseño Industriales de San Petersburgo (SPbSUITD), IIASA, Instituto Karlsruhe de Tecnología, Instituto de Investigación Forestal y Agroforestal de Kazajstán, O'Kelly Acumen, Instituto de Investigaciones Climáticas de Potsdam, Probos Foundation, Russ Taylor Global, Sciences Po (CSO-LIEPP), Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Universidad Southern Cross, Spinnova Plc., Suzano, Universidad de Ciencias Agrícolas de Suecia (SLU), Instituto Federal Suizo sobre Bosques, Universidad de Vigo, Universidad de Copenhage, Universidad de Helsinki, Universidad de Hohenheim, Universidad de Molise, Universidad de Recursos Naturales y Ciencias de la Vida, Universidad de Uppsala, Red de Investigación sobre Políticas Forestales de la Universidad de Viena (BOKU) y el Instituto Forestal Europeo, Wageningen Environmental Research, Wageningen University & Research Centre, Wageningen University and Research.

### **III. Apertura de la reunión**

9. La Sra. Maria Sokolenko (Federación de Rusia), Presidenta del Comité y Copresidenta de la reunión, inauguró la reunión conjunta y dio la bienvenida a los participantes.
10. La Sra. Olga Algayerova, Secretaria Ejecutiva de la CEPE, inauguró la sesión de Foresta 2021 y la sexta Semana Forestal Europea en nombre de la Comisión. Asimismo, presentó los eventos que tendrían lugar a continuación y destacó que los debates brindaban una oportunidad única para analizar los principales avances en materia de políticas forestales y el futuro de los bosques.
11. El Sr. Vladimir Rakhmanin, Subdirector General de la FAO, dio la bienvenida a los delegados en representación de la Organización y puso de relieve el compromiso ininterrumpido de la FAO de apoyar las iniciativas encaminadas a lograr la ordenación sostenible de los bosques y otros recursos naturales de la región, entre otras cosas, fortaleciendo los vínculos entre la actividad forestal y la agricultura.
12. La Sra. Mette L. Wilkie, Directora de la División de Actividad Forestal de la FAO, dio la bienvenida a los delegados y destacó la necesidad de mejorar la coordinación entre los sectores agrícola y forestal con objeto de potenciar la seguridad alimentaria, dado que la expansión de la agricultura es la causa de casi el 90 % de la deforestación mundial.
13. La Sra. Paola Deda, Directora de la División de Bosques, Tierras y Vivienda de la CEPE, dio las gracias a los delegados por su apoyo y destacó la trascendencia de la labor

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<sup>2</sup> La Unión Europea es un miembro de la CFE.

conjunta en materia de bosques en el marco de las medidas para combatir el cambio climático y las conclusiones de la recién celebrada 26.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia de las Partes en la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (CMNUCC), que había generado un nuevo impulso para mantener el tema de los bosques en las agendas políticas de los próximos años.

#### **IV. Aprobación del programa**

14. La reunión aprobó el programa provisional.

#### **V. El futuro de los bosques**

15. La Sra. Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Jefa de Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO, destacó que los bosques se enfrentan a desafíos complejos y que muchos de los problemas que se deberán resolver en el próximo decenio encuentran en los bosques parte de la solución. Asimismo, anunció la publicación del Estudio de perspectivas del sector forestal de 2020-2040, que se puede consultar en la página web <https://unece.org/forests/publications/forest-sector-outlook-study-2020-2040>. Por último, dio las gracias a los autores e instituciones que contribuyeron al estudio, así como a las secretarías de la CEPE y la FAO por el excelente trabajo realizado en el estudio en los últimos años.

16. La Sra. Almut Arneth (Elaboración de modelos de los ecosistemas terrestres mundiales, Instituto de Tecnología Karlsruhe) pronunció un discurso de presentación sobre las condiciones climáticas previstas para el futuro y sus consecuencias en la biosfera y, en particular, en los bosques. También destacó que, según las previsiones, el cambio climático hará aumentar los riesgos para los bosques y su capacidad de fijar carbono y señaló que detener la deforestación y restablecer los bosques puede reportar beneficios considerables en relación con el clima y la biodiversidad.

17. El Sr. Mart-Jan Schelhaas (Investigación Medioambiental de la Universidad de Wageningen) hizo una presentación sobre el desarrollo y la ordenación de los bosques en condiciones climáticas y sociales cambiantes. Hizo referencia a la creciente presión a la que están sometidos los recursos forestales y los efectos previstos en la oferta de productos forestales y destacó que para satisfacer las demandas de la sociedad y al mismo tiempo adaptarse al cambio climático, era necesario realizar actividades forestales inteligentes respecto del clima basadas en la ordenación forestal adaptada al entorno local.

18. El Sr. Kit Prins (autor y coordinador del Estudio de perspectivas sobre el sector forestal) presentó el nuevo estudio, en el que se analizan modelos hipotéticos para los recursos forestales, los productos y el comercio. Destacó que las emisiones procedentes de las perturbaciones de los bosques en una situación de cambio climático pueden ser comparables a los sumideros de carbono forestal de la CEPE. También señaló las incertidumbres y las compensaciones relativas a la posibilidad de aumentar la fijación de carbono sustituyendo los productos que consumen gran cantidad de carbono por productos forestales. Hizo hincapié en que las decisiones en materia de políticas que se tomen ahora en un lugar determinado pueden tener consecuencias a largo plazo y en regiones distantes, lo que lleva a concluir que se debe analizar todo el sistema en su conjunto.

19. El Sr. Janne Poranen (Spinnova Plc) y el Sr. Vinicius Nonino (Suzano) hicieron una presentación sobre la transformación mecánica de la madera en fibras textiles sin utilizar reactivos tóxicos. El Sr. Vinicius Nonino destacó los esfuerzos realizados por su empresa para aumentar la fijación de carbono en las actividades de elaboración de pasta de madera mediante la adopción de múltiples estrategias e hizo hincapié en los textiles sostenibles. El Sr. Janne Poranen presentó la tecnología textil, que permite reducir notablemente las emisiones por producto, y puso de relieve sus planes para introducirla en el mercado y la producción a gran escala con vistas a tener una gran repercusión en el mercado textil.

20. El Sr. Remy Buser (Bloom Biorenewable) hizo una exposición sobre la transformación de biomasa no comestible en productos de alto rendimiento para crear nuevo

valor a partir de residuos agrícolas. Destacó la posibilidad de utilizar la celulosa, la hemicelulosa y la lignina mejoradas para elaborar nuevas fibras compuestas y sustituir el petróleo en algunos tipos de productos.

21. El Sr. Reza Younesi (Departamento de Química del Laboratorio de Ångström, Universidad de Uppsala) hizo una presentación sobre la utilización de lignina para hacer baterías más sostenibles. Examinó las perspectivas comerciales del sector de las baterías, en especial la problemática de la escasez de materias primas y, posteriormente, destacó que las baterías de iones de sodio hechas con lignina podrían sustituir a las baterías de litio y abordar la escasez de materias primas.

22. El Sr. Cecil C. Konijnendijk (Nature Based Solutions Institute) hizo una presentación sobre los ecosistemas forestales urbanos y periurbanos en pro de la recuperación ecológica y destacó los múltiples beneficios de la actividad forestal urbana y periurbana sostenible. Asimismo, hizo hincapié en la importancia de los enfoques integrados e interdisciplinarios basados en la planificación y el seguimiento a largo plazo, en los que participen autoridades nacionales y regionales y encargados de formular las políticas, a fin de reforzar la gobernanza y la colaboración.

23. El Comité y la Comisión:

a) dieron las gracias a la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO y a los numerosos expertos e instituciones que contribuyeron a la preparación del Estudio de perspectivas del sector forestal y sus valiosas conclusiones orientadas al futuro, que fueron un instrumento importante para los nuevos debates y medidas;

b) dieron las gracias a los expertos oradores del grupo Future of Forests (El futuro de los bosques), que se centraron en temas que fueron desde los efectos del cambio climático en los bosques y los usos innovadores de los recursos forestales hasta las últimas novedades en el ámbito de la actividad forestal urbana, por sus excelentes presentaciones y elogiaron a la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO por haberse encargado de la organización;

c) solicitaron a la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO que siguiera manteniendo debates en colaboración con la CEPE, la FAO y otras partes como Forest Europe en relación con actividades de seguimiento;

d) alentaron a la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO a hacer un seguimiento de los posibles efectos de la pandemia de la enfermedad por coronavirus (COVID-19) en los mercados de productos forestales y las tendencias del futuro.

## **VI. Asuntos que conciernen tanto al Comité como a la Comisión**

### **a) Avances en los procesos de evaluación de los recursos forestales mundiales y regionales**

24. La Secretaría de la FAO presentó los avances realizados en el proceso de Evaluación de los recursos forestales mundiales (FRA), incluido el estado actual de la labor de la FAO relativa a la mejora de la presentación de informes sobre bosques primarios, así como sobre los planes para la recopilación conjunta de datos forestales en la región paneuropea entre la FAO, la CEPE y Forest Europe. La Secretaría también informó a las delegaciones sobre las conclusiones iniciales del estudio mundial de la FAO sobre teledetección.

25. Asimismo, aclaró que, para aumentar la frecuencia de las actualizaciones voluntarias de los principales indicadores, habían de considerarse cuidadosamente todos los indicadores relacionados a fin de evitar incoherencias en la base de datos de la FAO de la FRA. Pese a que la aplicación técnica que permite estas actualizaciones está avanzando a buen ritmo, la FAO tiene la intención de presentar y debatir este cambio en la próxima Consulta de expertos sobre la FRA, que tendrá lugar en junio de 2022, con vistas a recabar comentarios sobre los aspectos ligados al procedimiento. La Secretaría de la FAO informó a los delegados de que la presentación de informes sobre la degradación de los bosques seguía siendo problemática, ya que no existía una definición acordada a nivel internacional de “degradación de los

bosques”. Esta cuestión y la propuesta de mejorar la presentación de informes sobre bosques primarios y la aclaración de los términos conexos (rodal maduro, bosque intacto y bosque virgen, entre otros) también se examinarán durante la Consulta de expertos.

26. La Secretaría de la FAO volvió a aclarar que la red de corresponsales nacionales contribuirá a la recopilación de conjuntos de datos de la FRA y paneuropeos. La función de la FAO en cuanto organismo responsable de los indicadores 15.1.1 y 15.2.1 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) de las Naciones Unidas relacionados con los bosques y la utilización de la FRA para recopilar datos relativos a estos indicadores, garantiza que estén en consonancia con los informes nacionales sobre la FRA. La recopilación conjunta de datos entre la CEPE, la FAO y Forest Europe quedará limitada a los signatarios de Forest Europe; en este proceso no se utilizarán datos de otros países a menos que un país determinado respalde explícitamente su inclusión.

27. El Comité y la Comisión:

a) tomaron nota de los progresos realizados, reconocieron con agradecimiento el valor añadido de la nueva plataforma en línea de la FRA y la labor en curso y proporcionaron orientaciones en relación con la presentación de informes a escala regional;

b) felicitaron a la FAO y la CEPE por los progresos realizados con respecto a la recopilación conjunta de datos;

c) pidieron a la FAO y la CEPE que continuaran colaborando con Forest Europe en la recopilación conjunta de datos entre las tres organizaciones sobre los bosques y la gestión forestal y que coordinaran esta labor con la presentación de informes a escala mundial en la medida de lo posible;

d) alentaron a los Estados miembros a que continuaran colaborando con la CEPE, la FAO y las instituciones asociadas para lograr sinergias en la recopilación, el análisis y la gestión de datos; reducir la duplicación de esfuerzos, y apoyar la aplicación de la recopilación conjunta de datos entre la CEPE, la FAO y Forest Europe sobre los bosques y la gestión forestal.

## **b) Asuntos de políticas forestales mundiales y regionales**

28. El representante de la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de CEPE/FAO hizo una presentación sobre asuntos de políticas mundiales y regionales y proporcionó información sobre la aplicación del Plan estratégico de las Naciones Unidas para los bosques para 2017-2030, el foro político de alto nivel sobre el desarrollo sostenible y los diálogos nacionales sobre políticas forestales en Azerbaiyán y Kazajstán.

29. El Comité y la Comisión tomaron nota de la labor en curso y pidieron a la CEPE y la FAO que, dentro de sus mandatos actuales:

a) continuaran ayudando a los Estados miembros a ejecutar los aspectos de los ODS y la Agenda 2030 relacionados con los bosques, así como el Plan estratégico de las Naciones Unidas para los bosques 2017-2030;

b) mantuvieran informados a los Estados miembros y otras partes interesadas sobre las novedades a escala mundial y regional referentes a las políticas forestales, a fin de contribuir al logro de los ODS y al proceso de ejecución y revisión del Plan estratégico de las Naciones Unidas para los bosques para 2017-2030;

c) siguieran cooperando con los órganos y procesos regionales pertinentes.

## **c) Economía y mercados forestales**

30. El Sr. Glen O’Kelly (O’Kelly Acumen) hizo una exposición sobre la situación en la que se encontraban los mercados de madera en rollo de la región de la CEPE. Asimismo, destacó las oportunidades y amenazas para los mercados y el repunte particularmente intenso que se produjo el año pasado de madera y papel. Señaló que las dificultades que se podrían producir a corto y medio plazo eran: una crisis financiera en el mercado de la vivienda de

China, la inminente prohibición de la exportación de madera en rollo en la Federación de Rusia, la reducción de la disponibilidad de madera en rollo tras el aumento temporal en Europa central y la reducción de la disponibilidad en el Canadá. El orador también indicó que el cambio climático y las iniciativas relacionadas con la sostenibilidad podrían reducir los niveles de cosecha permisibles y recalcó que la situación del mercado a corto y medio plazo podría ser bastante positiva y dar lugar a precios más altos.

31. El Sr. Russ Taylor (Russ Taylor Global) expuso la situación de los mercados de madera aserrada en la CEPE y destacó que, en el primer semestre de 2021, los mercados habían sido fuertes y los precios habían llegado a un máximo histórico. La elevada demanda de madera de coníferas aserrada en el mercado de América del Norte y la escasa oferta provocaron el alza de los precios y el aumento de las importaciones. La acusada reducción de la oferta de madera de coníferas aserrada en la provincia de la Columbia Británica del Canadá se debió al cierre de unos 40 aserraderos desde 2015. Por el contrario, el sur de los Estados Unidos de América fue la única subregión de América del Norte con un destacado potencial de expansión y ya había aumentado la capacidad de producción de madera de coníferas aserrada en unos 2 millones de m<sup>3</sup> en los últimos años. Se prevé que esta situación se mantendrá en los próximos años, aunque a un ritmo menor. El alza de los precios de la madera de coníferas aserrada se contagió a otras regiones. El orador concluyó recalcando que preveía que la fuerte demanda se mantendría en 2022 y que los precios se estabilizarían por debajo de los de 2021, aunque se mantendrían notablemente superiores a la media histórica.

32. El Comité y la Comisión:

a) tomaron nota de las tendencias de los productos forestales en la región y de la contribución del sector al desarrollo sostenible;

b) dieron las gracias a los delegados por sus declaraciones sobre las últimas tendencias en la producción y el comercio de productos forestales, así como por las declaraciones por escrito de los Estados miembros sobre el mercado, que pueden consultarse en la página web <https://unece.org/forests/market-analyses> y que se reflejan en la declaración sobre el mercado de la sesión conjunta;

c) dieron las gracias a la Secretaría, los corresponsales nacionales y los equipos de especialistas por los datos esenciales y la información que habían recopilado y reflejado en las publicaciones de la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO, en particular el Examen anual del mercado de productos forestales de 2020-21;

d) invitaron a los Estados miembros a seguir presentando informes en 2022 y pidieron a la Secretaría conjunta de la CEPE/FAO que dedicara más tiempo a los debates sobre el mercado en la reunión del 2022 del Comité de Bosques y de la Industria Forestal (COFFI);

e) aprobaron la declaración sobre el mercado modificada que figura en el Anexo I del presente informe.

#### **d) Presentación de información sobre la aplicación del Programa integrado de trabajo de Varsovia para 2018 y las decisiones conexas**

##### **i) Informe del Grupo de trabajo CEPE/FAO sobre estadísticas, economía y ordenación forestales**

33. La Jefa de Grupo de trabajo CEPE/FAO sobre estadísticas, economía y ordenación forestales, Sra. Magdalena Wolicka-Posiadała (Polonia), presentó el informe de la 42.<sup>a</sup> reunión, que se celebró del 22 al 24 de marzo de 2021 en Ginebra (Suiza), en formato híbrido.

34. La Comisión y el Comité:

a) tomaron nota de las recomendaciones formuladas por el Grupo de trabajo con respecto a la estructura y el número de equipos de especialistas en el marco del nuevo Programa integrado de trabajo;

b) tomaron nota de la fecha de la reunión de la 42.<sup>a</sup> reunión del Grupo de trabajo, programada entre el 1 y el 3 de junio de 2022;

c) dieron las gracias al Grupo de trabajo por su labor y lo invitaron a continuar las actividades establecidas en el nuevo Programa integrado de trabajo;

d) aprobaron el informe y dieron las gracias al Grupo de trabajo y a los equipos de especialistas por su labor y los resultados que habían logrado.

## **ii) Examen de las actividades de 2021, y actividades y publicaciones previstas para 2022**

35. El representante de la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO presentó el informe sobre las actividades realizadas en 2021 en el marco del Programa integrado de trabajo de Varsovia y la lista provisional de realizaciones y publicaciones de 2022.

36. El Comité y la Comisión:

a) manifestaron su apoyo a la continuación de las actividades del Programa integrado de trabajo y, al mismo tiempo, al aumento de la visibilidad de estas actividades, y sugirieron que el proceso se beneficiaría de que la actividad forestal urbana se convirtiera en una esfera de acción importante;

b) destacaron la importancia de seguir trabajando en 2022 en la preparación para el ciclo de presentación de informes de 2025;

c) acogieron favorablemente la propuesta del Equipo de especialistas en bosques boreales de organizar una reunión ministerial boreal en 2022;

d) aprobaron el informe sobre las actividades de 2021 y tomaron nota de la lista provisional de realizaciones y publicaciones de 2022;

e) felicitaron a los Estados miembros y sus expertos, así como a la Secretaría conjunto CEPE/FAO por los resultados obtenidos y pidieron a la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO que volviera a informar al respecto a los participantes en la reunión de 2022 del COFFI.

## **e) Programa integrado de trabajo para 2022-25**

37. El Presidente presentó la propuesta de nuevo Programa integrado de trabajo, así como los mandatos de los equipos de especialistas y cedió la palabra a los asistentes para que formularan comentarios al respecto.

38. El Comité y la Comisión tomaron nota de la recomendación formulada a partir de la evaluación independiente del proyecto de la 10.<sup>a</sup> remesa de fondos de la Cuenta de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo titulado “Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia” (Sistemas de rendición de cuentas en la esfera de la ordenación forestal sostenible en el Cáucaso y el Asia central).

39. El Comité y la Comisión:

a) examinaron el proyecto y enmendaron varias disposiciones. El proyecto revisado se aprobó como Programa integrado de trabajo para 2022-25 (Anexo II);

b) aprobaron los mandatos pertinentes de los órganos auxiliares y los equipos de especialistas. En concreto, el Comité y la Comisión acordaron:

i) establecer el mandato de los siguientes equipos de especialistas para el período 2022-23 y acordar sus respectivos mandatos, que figuran en el Anexo II del presente informe;

- Equipo de especialistas en bosques boreales
- Equipo de especialistas en seguimiento de la gestión forestal sostenible
- Equipo de especialistas en productos forestales sostenibles
- Equipo de especialistas en comunicación forestal

ii) aprobar la integración del Equipo de especialistas en dendroenergía y el Equipo de especialistas en estadísticas de productos forestales y, con ello, el nuevo mandato del Equipo de especialistas en estadísticas de productos forestales y dendroenergía, que figura en el Anexo II;

iii) suspender el Equipo de especialistas en perspectivas del sector forestal durante el período del Programa integrado de trabajo para 2022-25, dada la finalización del Estudio de perspectivas del sector forestal de 2021. La Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO continuará con la labor sobre la difusión de los resultados del estudio de perspectivas y las actividades de creación de capacidad conexas;

iv) suspender el Equipo de especialistas en empleo verde;

c) dieron las gracias a todos los equipos de especialistas por su labor y apoyo durante tantos años.

## **f) Restauración del paisaje forestal**

40. Un representante de la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO informó al Comité y la Comisión acerca de las actividades en curso y previstas relacionadas con la restauración del paisaje forestal en la región.

41. El delegado de Uzbekistán informó al Comité y la Comisión sobre las principales conclusiones de la reunión titulada “Achievements – challenges – aspirations for forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia” (Logros, dificultades y aspiraciones de la restauración del paisaje forestal en el Cáucaso y Asia central), celebrada el 22 de noviembre de 2021.

42. El Comité y la Comisión:

a) tomaron nota de las actividades pasadas y en curso relacionadas con la restauración del paisaje forestal que mencionó la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO;

b) expresaron su agradecimiento a los países que habían participado en la Reunión ministerial sobre la restauración de los espacios forestales en Europa oriental y sudoriental de 2021 por su compromiso de restaurar más de 4 millones de hectáreas antes de 2030. El Comité y la Comisión también acogieron con agrado la aprobación de la Declaración ministerial sobre la iniciativa ECCA30 y felicitaron a los gobiernos de Turquía y Ucrania por haberse comprometido a restaurar 2,3 millones de hectáreas y 1,5 millones de hectáreas, respectivamente;

c) examinaron la orientación y actividades futuras en este ámbito, en particular en el contexto del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Restauración de los Ecosistemas (2021-2030), y pidieron a la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO que continuara apoyando a los Estados miembros en su labor de restauración del paisaje forestal.

## **g) La contribución de los bosques y los productos forestales a la bioeconomía circular**

43. Un representante de la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO presentó las principales conclusiones del estudio titulado *Circularity concepts in forest-based industries* (Conceptos de circularidad en las industrias forestales) y la lista de las actividades que la Sección de la CEPE/FAO podría llevar a cabo en relación con la contribución de los bosques y los productos forestales a la bioeconomía circular en 2022-23. Los Estados miembros consideraron la pertinencia del concepto de circularidad en cuanto está relacionado con las industrias forestales y destacaron la importancia de seguir trabajando en este ámbito.

44. El Comité y la Comisión:

a) expresaron su agradecimiento a la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO por la preparación del estudio y la labor realizada hasta ese momento;



b) invitaron a la CEPE y la FAO, a través de su Sección conjunta de la Madera y los Bosques, a que:

i) prepararan una serie de estudios para seguir examinando la aplicación de modelos circulares en industrias forestales específicas y la forma en que se aplican a los objetivos del Acuerdo de París y los ODS, en particular mediante la determinación de estudios de casos y mejores prácticas;

ii) tuvieran en cuenta la cadena de valor forestal en su conjunto y prestaran atención al carácter circular de la madera como recurso renovable y el papel de la gestión forestal sostenible;

iii) examinaran las definiciones y recomendaciones existentes para ajustarlas al sector forestal a fin de someterlas a la consideración de los Estados miembros durante la siguiente Reunión conjunta, teniendo en cuenta que la labor sobre una definición de una bioeconomía circular en el sector forestal resultaba prematura;

iv) evaluaran las prioridades y las necesidades de los Estados miembros en lo tocante a la aplicación de modelos circulares en el sector forestal, según procediera;

v) brindarían oportunidades a los Estados miembros de intercambiar conocimientos y mejores prácticas sobre la aplicación de los principios de circularidad en el sector forestal.

## **h) Contribuciones de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios de 2021 y asuntos que se señalan a la atención del Comité y de la Comisión**

45. La Sra. Serena Fortuna (FAO) presentó una visión general de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios (23 de septiembre de 2021). Destacó que impulsar la producción positiva para la naturaleza es una de las cinco líneas de acción de la Cumbre y que 107 Estados miembros han compartido sus procesos nacionales. Asimismo, señaló que el Centro de Coordinación de los organismos de las Naciones Unidas, albergado por la FAO, respaldaría los procesos nacionales y las coaliciones de múltiples partes interesadas que se presentaron en la Cumbre. En la presentación se hizo hincapié en los vínculos existentes entre los sistemas alimentarios y la deforestación y se señaló que la agricultura es la primera causa a escala mundial.

46. Los delegados destacaron la contribución de la CEPE a la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios, que se centró en los bosques de los que se obtienen alimentos y la producción de alimentos en las ciudades (aproximadamente el 20 % de la producción total de alimentos) y en la que se emitió el vídeo titulado *Forests for Food: From Food Deserts to Food Forests* (Bosques para producir alimentos: de los desiertos alimentarios y los bosques alimentarios; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3Q2GSyBiIE>). Los delegados también destacaron la labor de la CEPE en el ámbito de la actividad forestal urbana y los esfuerzos realizados por incorporar este importante tema en el proceso de la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios. Asimismo, alentaron a la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO a seguir trabajando en los vínculos de los sistemas alimentarios con los bosques, en especial en lo relativo a detener la deforestación, poniendo de relieve las sinergias de los bosques, las políticas agrícolas, los territorios urbanos y rurales y destacando la importancia de los bosques en la protección del medio ambiente y los servicios ecológicos.

47. El Comité y la Comisión:

a) tomaron nota de las conclusiones de la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios de 2021 y su pertinencia para la labor del Comité y la Comisión, en especial los elementos relacionados con la labor en materia de restauración del paisaje forestal y de soluciones basadas en la naturaleza, indicados por la Secretaría de la FAO;

b) pidieron a la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO que siguiera trabajando en este ámbito que forma parte de su mandato.

## **VII. Asuntos del Comité de Bosques y de la Industria Forestal de la Comisión Económica para Europa**

48. La Sra. Maria Sokolenko (Federación de Rusia) presidió la reunión.

### **a) Asuntos planteados desde la última reunión**

49. La Sra. Paola Deda, Directora de la División de Bosques, Tierras y Vivienda de la CEPE, informó a los delegados de las decisiones adoptadas por la Comisión en su 69.º período de sesiones, celebrado en Ginebra (Suiza) del 20 al 21 de abril de 2021, que revisten interés para el nuevo Programa integrado de trabajo. Asimismo, resumió la declaración de alto nivel, en la que se pide a los comités sectoriales pertinentes que consideren cómo mejorar el impacto de los instrumentos existentes de la CEPE que hagan al caso, a fin de impulsar enfoques circulares y más eficientes en el uso de recursos, entre otras cosas, proponiendo maneras de detectar, evaluar y subsanar las deficiencias en cuanto a gobernanza y buenas prácticas. La Sra. Deda invitó a los delegados a que tomaran en consideración dichas decisiones y novedades, sobre todo al planificar actividades futuras. También se refirió a la ausencia de una definición internacional de “economía circular” y a la labor que estaba realizando la CEPE en aquel momento para abordar esta cuestión.

50. El Comité tomó nota de la información proporcionada.

### **b) Programa de trabajo para 2022 y recomendaciones sobre los principales componentes del programa de trabajo para 2023**

51. La Jefa de la Sección de la Madera y los Bosques de la CEPE/FAO presentó el proyecto de programa de trabajo respecto del subprograma sobre los bosques y la industria forestal para 2022 y las recomendaciones formuladas en relación con los principales componentes del programa de trabajo para 2023.

52. El Comité:

a) aprobó el proyecto de programa de trabajo respecto del subprograma para 2022 y recomendó al Comité Ejecutivo que lo aprobara;

b) respaldó el objetivo de la aplicación y la interrelación entre los componentes del subprograma;

c) solicitó la inclusión de la actividad forestal urbana en el apartado dedicado a la estrategia del programa de trabajo para 2023;

d) modificó y aprobó el esquema de los principales componentes de su programa de trabajo para 2023 y pidió que el esquema y las recomendaciones acordadas se incluyeran en el Esquema de los principales componentes del programa de trabajo respecto del subprograma sobre los bosques y la industria forestal para 2023 (Anexo III);

e) pidió a la Secretaría de la CEPE que preparara el programa de trabajo para 2023, junto con un esquema para 2024, con vistas a presentarlos en la reunión de 2022 del COFFI para su examen y aprobación.

### **c) Informe sobre los proyectos de la Comisión Económica para Europa**

53. La Secretaría de la CEPE presentó los proyectos de la Comisión financiados con cargo a la Cuenta de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, los proyectos con cargo a los fondos del programa ordinario de cooperación técnica de la CEPE, así como los proyectos con cargo a fondos extrapresupuestarios. La Secretaría de la CEPE también destacó el alcance, los resultados y la repercusión que se habían logrado y señaló a la atención de los Estados miembros la importancia de movilizar fondos para 2022 que permitieran mantener el volumen de actividades llevadas a cabo en 2021.

54. La Secretaria del COFFI reiteró que la Sección de la CEPE/FAO tenía una gran cartera de actividades, pero que la financiación destinada a proyectos era muy limitada para realizar actividades con los escasos recursos del presupuesto ordinario de cara al año siguiente y los posteriores, e invitó a los Estados miembros a que ayudaran a la Secretaría de la CEPE a recaudar fondos.

55. La Directora de la División de Bosques, Tierras y Vivienda destacó la importancia de trabajar en sinergia con la FAO, señalando la fuerte presencia de la Organización sobre el terreno, para desempeñar actividades de fomento de la capacidad en los Estados miembros.

56. El Comité:

a) tomó nota del informe de la Secretaría de la CEPE sobre los proyectos de la Comisión y la elogió por los resultados y el impacto obtenidos. Agradeció la información a la Secretaría de la CEPE y le pidió que siguiera informándole en su siguiente reunión, en 2022. Asimismo, alentó a los países a ayudar a la Secretaría de la CEPE a recaudar fondos;

b) señaló la importancia de la labor de la Sección conjunta, en especial las realizaciones únicas que no produce ninguna otra organización. El Comité reconoció que tal vez era necesario establecer un orden de prioridad entre las actividades en caso de que no se movilizaran fondos suficientes.

#### **d) Experiencias adquiridas en el acto del Día Internacional de la Mujer organizado por el Congreso Forestal de las Mujeres**

57. El Comité tomó nota de la participación de la Secretaría de la CEPE en el acto organizado con motivo del Día Internacional de la Mujer en el Congreso Forestal de las Mujeres, celebrado el 8 de marzo de 2021, y alentó a las delegaciones y la Secretaría de la CEPE a seguir trabajando en este ámbito.

#### **e) Elección de los miembros de la Mesa**

58. Se eligió a las siguientes personas para ejercer funciones como componentes de la Mesa hasta el final de la 80.<sup>a</sup> reunión: Sra. Maria Sokolenko (Federación de Rusia) como Presidenta y Sra. Marta Gaworska (Polonia), Sra. Maureen Whelan (Canadá) y Sr. Peter Blombäck (Suecia) como vicepresidentes.

59. La reunión manifestó calurosamente su agradecimiento al Vicepresidente saliente, Sr. Guy Robertson (Estados Unidos de América), por los excelentes servicios prestados a lo largo de muchos años, en especial su valiosa contribución al COFFI y a su Mesa, así como por su apoyo a la cooperación con la CFE y su cordial asistencia.

#### **f) Fecha y lugar de la siguiente reunión**

60. La Presidencia comunicó a los delegados que, siempre y cuando se dispusiera de servicios de conferencias, se había reservado provisionalmente la semana del 7 al 11 de noviembre de 2022 para la celebración de la 80.<sup>a</sup> reunión del Comité, que tendría lugar en Ginebra (Suiza).

#### **g) Otros asuntos**

61. La Sra. Paola Deda, Directora de la División de Bosques, Tierras y Vivienda de la CEPE, recordó a los delegados el proceso de la Comisión para la adopción de decisiones en las reuniones oficiales con participación remota, en especial el procedimiento de aprobación tácita de 72 horas necesario para que las decisiones se consideren adoptadas. Aprovechó la ocasión para reiterar el compromiso de la CEPE con la labor conjunta de la Comisión y la FAO, así como con la cooperación con asociados como Forest Europe. La cooperación eficaz es fundamental para que las organizaciones obtengan buenos resultados en el ámbito forestal, un tema que ocupa una posición destacada en la agenda internacional.

## VIII. Asuntos de la CFE de la FAO

62. La Sra. Christine Farcy (Bélgica) presidió la reunión.

### a) Seguimiento de las decisiones adoptadas en la 40.<sup>a</sup> reunión de la CFE

63. La Secretaría de la FAO presentó brevemente las medidas emprendidas en respuesta a las peticiones formuladas por la Comisión durante su 40.<sup>a</sup> reunión.

64. La Comisión valoró positivamente los progresos realizados y pidió a la FAO que continuara su labor, en particular en relación con las especies forestales invasivas, los incendios forestales y las definiciones de degradación forestal, y que mantuviera informados a los Estados miembros sobre las novedades de interés.

### b) Presentación de las actividades forestales de la Oficina Regional para Europa y Asia Central de la FAO

65. El Sr. Nobert Winkler-Ráthonyi, Oficial forestal de la Oficina Regional de la FAO para Europa y Asia Central, y el Sr. Peter Pechacek, Oficial forestal de la Oficina Subregional de la FAO para Asia Central y el Cáucaso, presentaron las actividades de la Oficina Regional de la FAO para Europa y Asia Central en 2020 y 2021.

66. Los delegados acogieron con agrado las presentaciones y la información de referencia pertinente y valoraron positivamente la labor de la FAO en la región.

67. La Comisión alentó a los miembros a:

a) incorporar con mayor eficacia los enfoques territoriales integrados y de uso de la tierra de los organismos competentes encargados de la ordenación agrícola, forestal, pesquera y ganadera en los procesos nacionales de planificación pertinentes, y mejorar la colaboración intersectorial a nivel territorial;

b) integrar las consideraciones relativas a la pobreza y realizar análisis de la misma a la hora de diseñar los proyectos, aprovechando los puntos de entrada para abordar la pobreza, y garantizar que los programas sean inclusivos y sigan el principio de los ODS de no dejar a nadie atrás;

c) promover la producción y el consumo sostenibles de productos forestales no madereros i) asegurando la conservación y el suministro sostenible de estos productos; ii) fomentando cadenas de valor competitivas, equitativas y sostenibles; iii) mejorando la transparencia, los datos y el flujo de información sobre estos productos, y iv) estableciendo condiciones propicias en el ámbito normativo, financiero y de la innovación;

d) aportar contribuciones financieras o en especie en apoyo de los programas forestales regionales de la FAO, en especial los que aborden las normas fitosanitarias en el sector forestal de la región, y la labor de la FAO relacionada con proyectos, y proporcionar financiación complementaria para los proyectos del Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM) y el Fondo Verde para el Clima (FVC).

68. La Comisión recomendó a la FAO que:

a) reforzara la integración de los enfoques territoriales integrados y de uso de la tierra en las actividades operativas forestales en la región, así como en las prioridades regionales existentes y futuras de la Oficina Regional de la FAO para Europa y Asia Central, teniendo en cuenta las múltiples funciones de los bosques;

b) integrara las consideraciones relativas a la pobreza en el diseño y la formulación de proyectos, en particular los de gran envergadura como los del FMAM y el FVC, aplicando enfoques como la medición de la pobreza, los perfiles de pobreza, la cartografía de la pobreza y la selección de beneficiarios basada en la pobreza;

c) siguiera prestando apoyo a la gestión de los recursos naturales, en particular de los bosques, a través de la armonización y el fortalecimiento de los marcos y medidas

nacionales en materia de políticas, financiación, incentivos, tributación y gobernanza, como reglamentos, normas y el seguimiento de las prácticas e intervenciones de gestión forestal, y respaldara el fomento de la capacidad al respecto;

d) siguiera prestando apoyo a los países y otras partes interesadas, incluido el sector privado, para promover medidas coordinadas que mejoren la producción y el consumo sostenibles de productos forestales no madereros, incluido el fomento de la capacidad relativa a la recopilación y difusión de estadísticas sobre estos productos;

e) siguiera prestando asistencia a la Red de Europa y Asia central sobre especies forestales invasivas (REUFIS) y sus actividades, en particular en la organización de cursos de capacitación especializados en las nuevas especies invasivas, y colaborando con organizaciones pertinentes, como Forest Europe.

### **c) Progresos de Silva Mediterránea y el Grupo de trabajo de la CFE sobre ordenación de cuencas hidrográficas de montaña**

69. La Sra. Amy Duchelle, Oficial forestal superior de la FAO, presentó una visión general de las actividades realizadas bajo los auspicios de Silva Mediterránea.

70. La Comisión acogió favorablemente las actividades y recomendó a la FAO que alentara la realización de actividades relacionadas con el espíritu de empresa de los jóvenes en el sector de la bioeconomía con vistas a abordar los problemas a los que se enfrentan los bosques mediterráneos en el contexto de los cambios mundiales.

71. La Comisión invitó a los países a contribuir a la preparación de la séptima Semana Forestal del Mediterráneo, que se celebrará en 2022 en Antalya (Turquía), y a fomentar la participación de alto nivel en sus actos.

72. La Sra. Amy Duchelle también presentó las actividades del Grupo de trabajo de la CFE sobre ordenación de cuencas hidrográficas de montaña, incluida su iniciativa más reciente referente a la función protectora de los bosques en un clima cambiante.

73. La Comisión acogió con agrado las actividades del Grupo de trabajo y recomendó a los miembros que:

a) intensificaran aún más su compromiso con el Grupo de trabajo por medio, entre otras cosas, de la designación de un punto de contacto que ejerza como tal en el mismo;

b) brindaran orientación constante para el Grupo de trabajo, en particular en lo tocante a los temas prioritarios que el Grupo ha de atender;

c) difundieran la labor del Grupo de trabajo y aprovecharan al máximo sus servicios, por ejemplo, mediante la presentación de nuevos elementos y anuncios para publicar en el sitio web del Grupo de trabajo.

### **d) Diálogo regional intersectorial sobre asuntos forestales y agrícolas: mesa redonda**

74. El debate estuvo moderado por el Sr. Keith Anderson, Asesor en materia de políticas forestales y climáticas de la Oficina Federal de Medio Ambiente de Suiza. En el debate se examinaron las múltiples dimensiones de la integración intersectorial de la actividad forestal y de los sistemas agroalimentarios.

75. La Sra. Mette Wilkie, Directora de la División Forestal de la FAO, presentó el documento de antecedentes (ECE/TIM/2021/13; FO:EFC/2021/13) en el que se ponen de relieve los vínculos entre los bosques del mundo y sus sistemas agroalimentarios y los esfuerzos de la FAO por reflejar dichos vínculos en una colaboración más estrecha entre su Comité de Agricultura (COAG) y su Comité Forestal (COFO). Asimismo, destacó que, para gestionar las divergencias y las sinergias, es necesario integrar las políticas y los enfoques territoriales, reforzar la gobernanza y la legalidad, hacer que los sistemas agroalimentarios sean más ecológicos y tomar decisiones basadas en la ciencia.

76. El Sr. Nabil Gangi, Representante Regional Adjunto de la Oficina Regional de la FAO para Europa y Asia Central, presentó los esfuerzos de la FAO por intensificar su labor intersectorial mediante actividades dirigidas a promover la agricultura y la gestión forestal sostenibles, haciendo especial hincapié en las actividades regionales realizadas en Europa.

77. El Sr. Teemu Seppä, Asesor Ministerial Superior del Ministerio de Agricultura y Actividad Forestal de Finlandia, presentó las propuestas legislativas de la Comisión Europea para elaborar nuevas normas dirigidas a frenar la deforestación impulsada por la Unión Europea (UE) y la Estrategia de la UE en favor de los Bosques para 2030, que es una de las iniciativas emblemáticas del Pacto Verde Europeo.

78. El Sr. Abduvokhid Zakhadullaev, Jefe del Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales y Desarrollo del Ecoturismo del Comité Forestal Estatal de la República de Uzbekistán, presentó los beneficios de las actividades de restauración y reforestación en Uzbekistán para el sector agrícola y sus prioridades estatales, como las normas de certificación para la plantación de árboles, la producción y elaboración de cultivos alimentarios y plantas medicinales y el aumento de las plantaciones de pistacheros y almendros.

79. La Sra. Natalia Vysotska, Directora Adjunta de Ciencias del Instituto Ucraniano de Investigación sobre Actividad Forestal y Mejora Forestal, presentó las oportunidades para Ucrania de adoptar prácticas sostenibles en los sistemas agroalimentarios.

80. La Sra. Oana Neagu, Directora de Asuntos Generales de Copa Cogeca, destacó la necesidad de desarrollar un sector agrícola y forestal más integrado que beneficie a todos y garantice la seguridad alimentaria para más de 500 millones de personas en toda Europa. Las instancias decisorias deben adoptar un enfoque integrado con respecto a la ordenación territorial. En este sentido, destacó la captación de carbono, la bioeconomía, los enfoques basados en los servicios ecosistémicos y la promoción del espíritu de empresa entre las mujeres.

81. En el debate:

a) se destacó la necesidad de lograr sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles y que mejoren la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición;

b) se reconoció la importancia de intercambiar entre países experiencias y buenas prácticas relacionadas con el impulso del diálogo multisectorial para establecer sinergias y gestionar las discrepancias entre los bosques y la agricultura;

c) se hizo hincapié en la necesidad de considerar la seguridad alimentaria, la agricultura, la actividad forestal y otros aspectos del desarrollo rural de forma integrada.

82. La Comisión dio las gracias a la Secretaría y a los oradores por sus presentaciones y destacó la importancia de seguir trabajando en cuestiones intersectoriales de los ámbitos de la actividad forestal y la agricultura.

83. La Comisión invitó a los Estados miembros a considerar, según sus circunstancias, otras medidas que se podrían adoptar con vistas a:

a) promover sistemas agroalimentarios eficientes, inclusivos, resilientes y sostenibles para establecer sinergias con la gestión forestal sostenible;

b) promover medidas dirigidas a minimizar la deforestación asociada a los productos agrícolas.

84. La Comisión invitó a la FAO a:

a) enviar un mensaje a la Conferencia Regional para Europa en el que se hiciera hincapié en la necesidad de examinar la seguridad alimentaria, la agricultura, la actividad forestal y distintos aspectos del desarrollo rural de forma integrada;

b) prestar más atención a las prioridades específicas de la región, en particular la relativa a la “gestión de los recursos naturales de forma sostenible y la preservación de la biodiversidad en el contexto del cambio climático”;

c) continuar abordando las cuestiones intersectoriales a través de iniciativas y políticas de uso de la tierra dirigidas a detener y revertir la pérdida de bosques y la degradación de la tierra y promover la restauración, así como promover la agricultura y la gestión forestal sostenibles con miras a lograr sistemas agroalimentarios más eficientes, inclusivos, resilientes y sostenibles.

## e) Procesos e iniciativas mundiales

85. La Sra. Mette Wilkie, Directora de la División Forestal de la FAO, proporcionó información actualizada sobre las iniciativas y los procesos mundiales, por ejemplo, las conclusiones relacionadas con los bosques de la 16.<sup>a</sup> reunión del Foro de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Bosques (FNUB), la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios, la 26.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia de las Partes en la CMNUCC, la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Biodiversidad y la presentación del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Restauración de los Ecosistemas. La publicación principal de la FAO *El estado de los bosques del mundo de 2022* se publicará en 2022 con el título provisional *Actividad forestal y recuperación verde, creación de economías verdes inclusivas y sostenibles*.

86. La Comisión:

a) tuvo en cuenta la información actualizada sobre procesos y acontecimientos internacionales de importancia para los bosques que figura en el presente documento para facilitar los diálogos sobre políticas y los intercambios técnicos, así como para ayudar a los Miembros a lograr sus objetivos y contribuciones relacionados con los procesos y objetivos internacionales;

a) acogió con agrado el enfoque temático de la publicación principal de la FAO *El estado de los bosques del mundo de 2022*, bajo el título provisional “Actividad forestal y recuperación verde, creación de economías verdes inclusivas y sostenibles”;

c) acogió con beneplácito los esfuerzos de la FAO por integrar las cuestiones relacionadas con la actividad forestal en la fase de preparación de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios y los actos previos a la Cumbre;

d) acogió con satisfacción los avances de la iniciativa del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas para invertir la tendencia de la deforestación;

e) acogió favorablemente las conclusiones de la 26.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia de las Partes de la CMNUCC;

f) se congratuló por los temas elegidos para el Día Internacional de los Bosques de 2022 y 2023 y convino en tenerlos en cuenta en los preparativos de los actos celebrados en la región.

87. La Comisión pidió a la FAO que:

a) participara de forma activa en la promoción de la iniciativa del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas para cambiar la tendencia de la deforestación y las actividades conexas;

b) estudiara la forma en que se puede realizar un seguimiento de los compromisos asumidos a ese respecto en la 26.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia de las Partes en la CMNUCC;

c) siguiera desempeñando un papel activo en la presidencia de la Asociación de Colaboración en materia de Bosques y, de ese modo, intensificara la promoción de los bosques a través de los procesos e iniciativas mundiales pertinentes.

**f) Preparativos para la 33.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia Regional para Europa, el 26.<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones del Comité Forestal y el XV Congreso Forestal Mundial**

88. La Sra. Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs, Secretaria del COFO; el Sr. Nabil Gangi, Secretario de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para Europa, y el Sr. Peter Csoka, Secretario General Adjunto y Secretario del XV Congreso Forestal Mundial, presentaron los preparativos de la 33.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia Regional para Europa y el 26.<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones del COFO de la FAO en 2022 y para el programa forestal de la FAO, así como los preparativos para el XV Congreso Forestal Mundial (2-6 de mayo de 2022, República de Corea).

89. La Comisión formuló las recomendaciones contenidas en el Anexo IV: recomendaciones de la CFE dirigidas a la atención del COFO, recomendaciones de la CFE dirigidas a la atención de la Conferencia Regional para Europa (ERC) y recomendaciones de la CFE referentes al programa de trabajo de la FAO en el sector forestal que guardan relación con el programa de la presente reunión.

90. La Comisión acogió con satisfacción los preparativos para el Congreso e hizo hincapié en la necesidad de hacer llegar sus conclusiones a los órganos rectores de la FAO para que pudieran hacer el seguimiento correspondiente, si así estos lo hubieran decidido; invitó a los países a prestar apoyo al XV Congreso Forestal Mundial alentando y facilitando la participación, y animó a los países que estuvieran en condiciones de hacerlo a prestar apoyo financiero al Congreso para que la participación fuera equilibrada.

91. La Comisión pidió a la FAO que:

a) continuara sincronizando el calendario de las futuras reuniones de la CFE, teniendo en cuenta sus reuniones conjuntas con el COFFI (CEPE), con el calendario de los períodos de sesiones de la ERC, con objeto de que las aportaciones de la CFE a la ERC se presentaran de manera oportuna;

b) invitara al Presidente de la CFE a asistir a la Conferencia Regional y fomentara las actividades entre períodos de sesiones mejorando la interacción entre los Miembros de la CFE y la ERC, incluidas las delegaciones situadas en Roma, con el fin de reforzar el diálogo intersectorial sobre las políticas y garantizar que las cuestiones forestales regionales importantes se integraran en los temas de la Conferencia Regional;

c) considerara la posibilidad de llevar a cabo un examen de la CFE con el objetivo de seguir mejorando su pertinencia, haciendo especial hincapié en la Agenda 2030 y el Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031, así como su eficacia y eficiencia;

d) comunicara los resultados del debate sobre este tema en el próximo período de sesiones del COFO de la FAO para su consideración.

**g) Elección de los miembros de la Mesa y fecha y lugar de la siguiente reunión**

92. De conformidad con su Reglamento y con la práctica establecida, la Comisión eligió por aclamación a la Sra. Liubov Poliakova (Ucrania) como Presidenta y al Sr. Keith Anderson (Suiza), el Sr. Teemu Seppä (Finlandia) y el Sr. Abduvokhid Zakhadullaev (Uzbekistán) como vicepresidentes, para que desempeñaran sus funciones hasta el final de la 42.<sup>a</sup> reunión.

93. La Comisión manifestó su sincero agradecimiento a la Sra. Christine Farcy (Bélgica), Presidenta saliente, por su excelente servicio como Presidenta de la Comisión y como Vicepresidenta del Comité Forestal de la FAO. La Comisión también dio las gracias al Sr. Rob Busink (Países Bajos) y el Sr. Kenan Kilic (Turquía), vicepresidentes salientes, por sus excelentes servicios.



**h) Otros asuntos**

94. No se debatieron otros asuntos.

**IX. Aprobación del informe de la reunión conjunta y clausura de la reunión**

95. El Comité y la Comisión aprobaron el presente informe en la reunión.

96. Los Copresidentes de la reunión agradecieron a los delegados sus contribuciones al informe. La Secretaría informó a los participantes de que el informe final editado se publicaría en fechas próximas.

97. La reunión conjunta se clausuró el jueves, 25 de noviembre de 2021, a las 12.00.

## **Forest Products Market Statement**

### **I. Overview of forest products markets in 2020 and 2021**

1. Highly pessimistic early predictions about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on forest products markets have mostly proved wrong. Demand for forest product in 2020 evolved unexpectedly better than anticipated by producers and traders. In combination with supply constraints in the forest-based sector, this increased demand resulted in record prices for semifinished wood products, particularly in North America. The widespread stay-at-home orders meant more time and funds available for home improvement projects owing to the lack of travel or any other entertainment possibilities. Do-it-yourself projects started with the lockdowns when people first started to accommodate home working spaces and to expand outside terraces, both for personal and restaurant use, and finally to expand living areas to satisfy demand for more space. Forecasts for 2021 and 2022 are positive, with high demand for wood products being predicted.

2. In addition, a loosened monetary policy across the region led to increased investments in new constructions. COVID-19 related work-at-home orders appear to have led to a migration away from large urban metropolitan areas. The urban outmigration, low interest rates, a limited inventory of houses for sale, pent-up consumer demand, and remodelling were the primary drivers of increased residential construction and renovation activities and sales, particularly in North America.

3. Overall, the consumption of forest products in the ECE region decreased between 2% and 4% in 2020 compared to 2019 and is at its lowest in the past five years, except for wood-based panels (table 1). The outlook for 2021 and 2022 is very positive, with roundwood, sawnwood, panels, paper and pulp production expected to increase between 1 and 4 % in 2021; and more modest growth expected for 2022, with either nearly steady markets or growth up to 3%.<sup>3</sup>

4. Wood products for construction, refurbishment and remodelling started to see record price hikes in the last quarter of 2020 all the way into and beyond the second quarter of 2021. These higher prices likely reflect multiple factors, including not only demand but also supply disruptions and constraints, such as curtailed production, trade restrictions and lack of labour force often directly linked to lock down and sanitary measures to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

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<sup>3</sup> Regional and country forecasts for 2021-2022 are available at <https://unece.org/forests/coffi-market-forecasts>.

Table 1

**Apparent consumption of industrial roundwood, sawnwood, wood-based panels and paper and paperboard in ECE region, 2016-2020**

	Thousand	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change (volume) 2019-2020	Change (%) 2019-2020	Change (%) 2016-2020
<b>Industrial roundwood</b>									
Europe	m <sup>3</sup>	410,172	409,358	440,141	431,209	420,245	-10,964	-2.5	2.5
EECCA	m <sup>3</sup>	194,721	198,419	226,336	213,290	211,911	-1,379	-0.6	8.8
North America	m <sup>3</sup>	516,384	513,350	534,285	517,736	491,767	-25,969	-5.0	-4.8
ECE region	m <sup>3</sup>	1,121,277	1,121,127	1,200,762	1,162,236	1,123,923	-38,312	-3.3	0.2
<b>Sawnwood</b>									
Europe	m <sup>3</sup>	107,552	110,809	113,159	110,628	109,523	-1,105	-1.0	1.8
EECCA	m <sup>3</sup>	16,689	17,792	16,746	17,933	16,777	-1,156	-6.4	0.5
North America	m <sup>3</sup>	117,570	118,392	120,097	117,076	114,726	-2,350	-2.0	-2.4
ECE region	m <sup>3</sup>	241,811	246,992	250,001	245,637	241,026	-4,611	-1.9	-0.3
<b>Wood-based panels</b>									
Europe	m <sup>3</sup>	71,704	74,210	75,854	74,961	71,528	-3,432	-4.6	-0.2
EECCA	m <sup>3</sup>	16,687	18,351	21,204	19,364	18,204	-1,160	-6.0	9.1
North America	m <sup>3</sup>	54,270	56,603	54,771	55,249	53,421	-1,827	-3.3	-1.6
ECE region	m <sup>3</sup>	142,662	149,165	151,829	149,573	143,154	-6,420	-4.3	0.3
<b>Paper and paperboard</b>									
Europe	m.t.	88,407	89,959	89,555	86,296	82,741	-3,554	-4.1	-6.4
EECCA	m.t.	9,561	9,507	10,007	10,103	9,998	-105	-1.0	4.6
North America	m.t.	75,602	75,037	74,055	71,520	68,587	-2,933	-4.1	-9.3
ECE region	m.t.	173,571	174,503	173,617	167,919	161,326	-6,593	-3.9	-7.1

Notes: data as of July 2021; m<sup>3</sup>: cubic metres; m.t.: metric tonnes (1,000 kg); Sawnwood does not include sleepers in 2016.

Sources: FAOSTAT, 2021; ECE/FAO, 2021.

## A. Economic developments with implications for the forest sector

5. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a large contraction in economic activity across the ECE region in 2020, albeit with differences at national levels owing to the diverse economic structures and policy responses. Services suffered the most, because of mobility restrictions and changes in consumer behaviour, while the industrial sector fared comparatively better. Output bounced back strongly in the third quarter of 2020, as constraints were eased and consumers adjusted to remote work. Although new virus outbreaks required the re-introduction of restrictions in some countries, the negative impact was more limited than during the first wave; economies proved increasingly able to adapt to these limitations.

6. The external environment also improved, as global merchandise trade rose to exceed pre-pandemic levels in late 2020. In the United States, a large fiscal stimulus and the acceleration of the vaccination campaign provided a significant impetus to growth in early 2021. In the European Union (EU), after a sharp output decline, the recovery was more tentative, reflecting the continued disruptions from renewed virus outbreaks. The constraining effect of restrictions hit the European services sectors, in particular tourism and hospitality, which are significant economic sectors in many countries in the region. In the Russian Federation, output decline was limited given the absence of generalized lockdown measures.

7. The overall contraction of economic activity had varying impacts on labour markets. In the United States, unemployment soared while the participation rate plummeted. These trends were reversed in the last quarter of 2020, as the unemployment rate more than halved from its recent peak. However, as of June 2021, the reduction of employment remains significant. In the EU, labour retention schemes and wage subsidies managed to mitigate, to

a large extent, the effects of the crisis on unemployment. Overall, the pandemic disrupted cross-border labour flows in all regions. This also resulted in depressed incomes in countries where remittances from migrant labour flows are significant.

8. Housing market price dynamics have been generally positive throughout the region, with a marked acceleration of price growth in the United States in the second half of the year, supported by eased access to finance. In the EU, house price increases were significant in many countries, but remained unchanged in others. In the Russian Federation, expansion of housing loans led to increased demand, which together with higher costs for construction materials in turn triggered house prices to increase throughout 2020 and 2021.

9. Savings rates increased sharply during the first wave of infection and subsequent lockdowns. The recovery of consumption, which was negatively affected by the reintroduction of restrictions, generally trailed behind investment. Savings rates remained elevated and consumer confidence was below pre-pandemic levels in early 2021. As the pace of vaccination advances and pandemic related constraints are removed, consumer demand is expected to drive the strong output expansion that is anticipated for 2021 in most countries in the region.

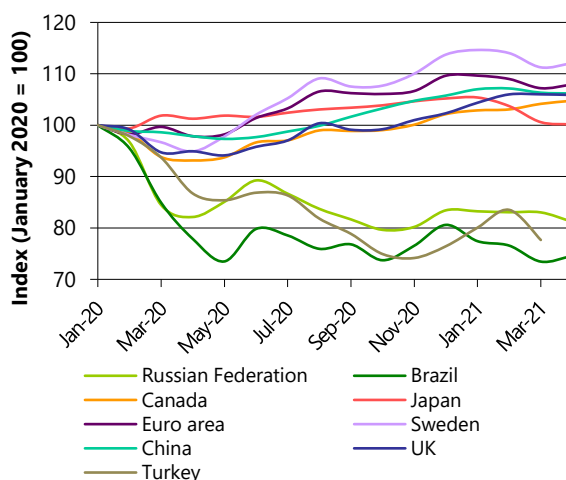
10. Policy support, both fiscal and monetary, has been substantial across the region, albeit with significant differences. In the United States, initial assistance, which included direct payments to families and loans to small business, led to an increasingly expansive fiscal policy stance. New initiatives have boosted household incomes and are expected to significantly increase demand, including through higher infrastructure spending, in the period ahead. In the EU, fiscal support was initially comparatively lower, although spending under the Recovery and Resiliency Facility, which is anticipated to start in late 2021, will provide a substantial fiscal impetus in the coming years.

11. Monetary policy was loosened across the region. The United States Federal Reserve cut its target for the federal funds rate by 1.5 percentage points in 2020, bringing the lower bound to zero. Actions included resumed quantitative easing, resulting in rapid growth of its balance sheet. Forward guidance indicated that rates would remain low until inflation is on track to moderately exceed 2 per cent for some time. In the Euro area, the European Central Bank launched a new asset purchase programme and reaffirmed its commitment to maintain very favourable financing conditions well beyond the end of the pandemic. By contrast, in some economies of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), the monetary policy loosening that marked the initial stages of the crisis has started to be reversed already in the first half of 2021.

12. Consumer price growth slowed down through 2020, leading to temporary deflation in the euro area. However, strong inflationary pressure re-emerged, resulting from a combination of cost pressures driven by higher commodity prices, supply disruptions and increasing demand. In some EECCA countries, the depreciation of national currencies has added to inflationary pressures. Spare capacity suggests that the acceleration of the inflation may be a transitory phenomenon, boosted by base effects and temporary supply bottlenecks. However, while monetary authorities in more advanced countries continue to underline their commitment to expansionary policies, concerns about possible future inflation dynamics have started to be reflected in their financial markets.

13. The United States dollar weakened against the euro through 2020. These movements, which put an end to the trend observed in the last two years, can be explained by narrowing interest rate differentials resulting from the expansive United States monetary policy and improved market sentiments regarding Europe's economic performance. The dollar has weakened since the second quarter of 2020 (graph 1) with increased volatility in 2021.

Graph 1

**Major currencies used to trade forest products indexed against the United States dollar, January 2020–June 2021**

*Note:* A diminishing index value indicates a weakening of the currency value against the United States dollar; an increasing index value indicates a strengthening of the currency value against the dollar.

*Source:* International Monetary Fund (IMF Data), 2021.

14. In 2021, the economic outlook has brightened considerably, and rapid recovery and growth can be expected in the region. Forecasts for both 2021 and 2022 are quite positive. The gradual ease of restrictions in all sectors paired with more social interaction and an improving positive outlook is expected to release pent up consumer demand. Fiscal and monetary policies are likely to continue to support for some time the economic activity in most countries in the region. This said, some concerns still remain: the pace of vaccination is still slow in some countries, which limits the generalized elimination of restrictions and facilitates the emergence of new virus mutations. As the economic recovery advances, exiting from ultra-loose fiscal and monetary policies may become challenging, including timing, the ability of some businesses to adapt to new conditions, and the impact on financial markets. While the general outlook for the next years is positive, the pandemic has exposed existing economic fragilities across the region with ensuing recovery expected to be uneven across the region.

## B. Policy and regulatory developments affecting the forest products sector

15. While the timber industry of the EECCA subregion has not been among the most affected sectors of the economy, it encountered significant reductions in the production, trade and consumption of wood products. The furniture industry and the production of wood-based panels have been the most affected segments of the forest sector in the region.

16. Based on a defined set of criteria, some countries developed and implemented distinct actions and policies. For example, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted measures to support important enterprises by providing them targeted aid. Under the scheme, 35 timber enterprises and 18 furniture companies were considered eligible for state aid, including: tax and insurance contribution deferrals, state guarantees for loans as well as subsidies for production operations such as:

- Soft loans for working capital financing and saving jobs. The interest rate on these loans is subsidized and does not exceed 5%. About 400 billion rubles (\$5.5 billion) are estimated to have been allocated for this programme;
- A six-month moratorium on bankruptcy;
- 1-year prolongation of the priority projects implementation;
- Deferred or instalment payments for taxes due in 2020;

- Some of the enterprises from the list which are subject to excessive risks can also apply for government guarantees and subsidies to cover business losses.

Authorities of some regions of the Russian Federation provided forestry enterprises involved in the timber industry with an option to defer the payment for forest use. Other significant measures adopted regionally for the timber industry included support to forest tenure holders with forest regeneration and the provision of materials for road rehabilitation. In some regions, the adopted measures included the requirement to use only locally produced wood for construction. As a result, the volumes of production and export increased considerably in the first 6 months of 2021. In terms of physical volumes compared to the same period of 2020, plywood and panel exports were +11-27% for different products, pellets +16%, paper and carton +7%, sawnwood +2%. In rubles, the volumes of production in the forest sector increased by 44%, exports by 38 %. That surplus was much higher than additional revenue caused by the national currency depreciation.

17. The Government of Ukraine adopted a range of financial and economic aid measures to support the citizens and businesses, including businesses in wood processing, which were impacted by COVID-19 in 2020. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine gradually introduced initiatives aimed at supporting small and medium enterprises in April and May of 2020 and modified existing support programs.

18. To respond to the economic and health crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU topped up its adopted budget for the years 2021-2027 and adopted a temporary recovery instrument called the “Next Generation EU” in May 2020. This instrument provides 750 billion € of EU funding to protect lives and livelihoods, to repair the EU Single Market, and to build a lasting and prosperous recovery. Use of the funds at the national level is earmarked for eligible activities, including *inter alia* affordable public housing and building renovation, often linked to energy efficiency improvements and/or the use of renewable energy sources such as woody biomass. In conjunction with the EU’s Renovation Wave strategy, the markets for various forest products used for construction and renovation are expected to develop strongly in the coming years.

19. The pandemic highlighted the complexity, fragility, and inter-dependence of global value chains, and demonstrated the pivotal role played in the EU by a functional European Single Market with global links. This led the EU to update the objectives of its industrial strategy, which supports the twin goals of green and digital transitions to a low-carbon, net-zero economy by 2030. The strategy aims to build a stronger EU Single Market with reduced supply dependencies, strengthened support for SMEs and start-ups, and efforts to accelerate the twin green and digital transitions.

20. In addition, the EU adopted the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030 with six main objectives:

- Support the socioeconomic functions of forests for thriving rural areas and boosting the forest-based bioeconomy within sustainability boundaries;
- Protect, restore, and enlarge the EU’s forests to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss, and ensure resilience in multifunctional forest ecosystems;
- Conduct strategic forest monitoring, reporting, and data collection;
- Strengthen the research and innovation strategy to improve our knowledge of forests;
- Build an inclusive and coherent EU forest governance framework;
- Step up the implementation and enforcement of existing EU laws.

21. This strategy aims to help attain the EU’s biodiversity objectives as well as the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets in its revised Climate Policy, which could influence the wood supply in the future. This includes a stepped-up target of 55% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030 (from 1990), including increased use of biofuels. The Strategy also highlights an important role of wood products in helping turn the construction sector from a source of greenhouse gas emissions into a carbon sink. This is underlined in many national programmes, e.g. German “Charter for Wood 2.0”. The Strategy should also contribute to attaining the SDGs, in particular Goal 15.

22. In North America, the Softwood Lumber Agreement between Canada and the United States expired on 12 October 2015. In place since 2006, this agreement had addressed tariffs on lumber traded between the two countries as part of a decades-long trade dispute. At the time of this writing, the United States Department of Commerce is in the process of making its final determination for the second administrative review regarding specific countervailing and antidumping duties for various Canadian companies, with release expected in late November 2021.

23. On 1 July 2020, the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement came into effect and replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement, which expired on 30 June 2020. Discussions about the softwood trade disputes also continue under Chapter 10 of this new agreement.

24. The United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announced the implementation of phase 6 of the Lacey Act enforcement schedule, scheduled to go into effect on 1 October 2020. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ensures compliance with the declaration requirement. Products needing declarations have been phased in since enforcement began in 2009. The additional products proposed to be covered by the phase-6 enforcement schedule included certain essential oils (e.g. cedarwood and sandalwood), wood cases and trunks, oriented strandboard, boxes, crates, pallets and musical instruments (e.g. clarinets and drums). In August 2020, the Department of Agriculture announced a decision to delay implementation of phase 6 of the Lacey Act enforcement schedule due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **C. Forest certification**

25. The area of certified forests worldwide increased by 0.8% (3.5 million ha) between mid-2019 and mid-2020, to 435.5 million ha, an all-time high. The two major schemes, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, reported a combined total of 530 million ha of certified forest, as of mid-2020. However, after accounting for double certification (i.e. forest areas certified by both certification bodies), this dropped to 435.5 million ha. Certified area continues to expand, for example Montenegro will introduce FSC certification in the next two years.

## **II. Summary of regional and subregional markets for key forest products**

### **A. Wood raw materials**

26. The total timber harvest in the ECE region fell by 3.4% in 2020 to 1.40 billion m<sup>3</sup>, split between industrial roundwood (82%) and wood fuel (18%). The most significant decline from 2019 occurred in North America, while the change in the EECCA subregion was minimal.

27. The consumption of industrial roundwood in 2020 declined for the second consecutive year to 1.12 billion m<sup>3</sup>. Non-coniferous industrial roundwood consumption decreased by 10% year-over-year to 229 million m<sup>3</sup>, the lowest level since 2009. The reduction in the usage of coniferous industrial roundwood was more modest, down only 1.3% to 895 million m<sup>3</sup>.

28. The ECE region is a major exporter of industrial roundwood. In 2020, the region accounted for 78% of globally traded coniferous industrial roundwood and 58% of non-coniferous industrial roundwood. Damaged timber losses have been enormous – in Germany alone from 2018-2020 the damage due to drought and bark beetle infestation accounted for 177 million m<sup>3</sup> and continues at a high level of 42.7 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2021. Total exports reached 93 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2020, the highest level in 13 years. The trends over the past five years have been upward in the European subregion (+53%), while downward in the EECCA (-33%) and North American subregions (-34%). The largest industrial roundwood exporters in the ECE region were the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, Germany, the United States, Poland,

and Norway (in descending order). The temporary supply of coniferous industrial roundwood from Central Europe is expected to decline, due to decreasing availability of salvaged wood.

29. European harvests of industrial roundwood fell by 2% year-over-year in 2020 to 426 million m<sup>3</sup>. The decline followed eight years of consecutive increases. The most significant decreases occurred in Finland, Poland, Austria, and Slovakia, predominantly because of increased log imports from neighbouring countries with ample supplies of insect-and-storm-damaged timber. Czech Republic became the world's second-largest exporter of industrial roundwood in 2020, exporting 15.5 million m<sup>3</sup> of coniferous industrial roundwood. The United States rose to fifth position. Germany and the Czech Republic plan to reduce harvesting of coniferous industrial roundwood in 2020-2022 by 15% (Germany) and by 27% (Czech Republic) due to large amounts of damaged timber harvested in earlier years. Poland harvested 13% less wood in 2020 than in 2018. Over the past 10 years, Turkey doubled its annual domestic production of industrial roundwood, reaching 25 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2020.

30. Total industrial roundwood exports from the Russian Federation increased slightly in 2020, following a downward trend for over 10 years. However, only coniferous industrial roundwood exports declined in the past decade. Non-coniferous industrial roundwood shipments have steadily increased, reaching 8.1 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2020, up by 80% from 2010. The most significant increases have been for non-coniferous sawlogs to China and pulplogs to pulpmills in Finland. It is expected that exports of coniferous logs will fall significantly, should the Russian Federation implement the announced log export ban.

31. Strong sawnwood markets in Europe and North America moved sawlog prices upward in 2020 and early 2021, with the most significant increases in Eastern and Central Europe, Western Canada, and the United States.

32. Removals of industrial roundwood in the United States amounted to 370 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2020, the lowest level in six years, while Canadian removals were 130 million m<sup>3</sup>, an 11-year low. The decline in timber harvests was predominantly driven by the COVID pandemic, which resulted in labour shortages throughout the entire supply chain.

33. China, the world's largest importer of logs, has relied on the Russian Federation for a significant volume of wood raw material for its forest industry for a long time. However, this might possibly change in 2022 if the Russian Federation really implements a currently proposed ban on log exports, particularly softwood species. The ban is likely to have a far-reaching impact on the global trade flow of industrial roundwood and sawnwood, with China sourcing more sawlogs from Oceania, Europe, and the United States.

34. Data supplied by ECE member States (all figures are year-on-year) indicate that removals of industrial roundwood will increase in the ECE region by 1.4% in 2021 and decrease by 0.5% in 2022. Subregionally, the forecast is for European removals to increase by 1.6% in 2021 and to decrease by 0.7% in 2022; EECCA removals to increase by 1.6% in 2021 and shrink by 3.1% in 2022; and North American removals to increase by 1.2% in 2021 and by 0.6% in 2022.

## **B. Sawnwood**

35. The three ECE subregions recorded mixed results in the consumption of sawn softwood in 2020 due to the global pandemic: modest declines were recorded in Europe (-0.4%) and EECCA (-5.1%) and were offset by a gain in North America (+3.5%). Overall, the consumption of sawn softwood increased by 1% reaching 210.7 million m<sup>3</sup>. The production of sawn softwood was also mixed: Europe recorded a gain (+1.6%); North America increased by 0.8%; while it contracted in the EECCA (-5.0%).

36. In Europe, lower demand and higher production meant sawn softwood exports increased in volume (+3.9%) as surplus supplies of low-cost spruce-bark beetle timber allowed Central Europe as well as Scandinavia to further expand output and exports. The volume of European sawn softwood exports increased to 58.9 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2020, and average export prices per m<sup>3</sup> increased slightly by 0.8%. Sawnwood capacities are being increased for the near-term future.



37. The EECCA subregion produced 47.3 million m<sup>3</sup> of sawn softwood in 2020 (-5.0% over 2019). EECCA sawn softwood exports declined to 36.8 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2020 (-4.4%).
38. North American sawn softwood output was 101.6 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2020 (0.8% over 2019). Exports dropped significantly (-5.2%) to 28.2 million m<sup>3</sup>, with the United States recording a drop of 15.2% (-350,000 m<sup>3</sup>) while Canada was lower by 4.3% (-1.2 million m<sup>3</sup>). North America imports increased to 26.3 million m<sup>3</sup> (4.3%). The sawn softwood production capacities in the United States have been increasing by about 2 million m<sup>3</sup> in the past few years. This is expected to continue at a slightly lower pace in the coming years. Demand is expected to outpace capacity increases, creating scope for further exports to the United States. Prices are declining from their peaks but are expected to stabilize at a higher level than in the past.
39. Sawn hardwood consumption and production in the ECE region was severely affected by the global pandemic in 2020.
40. The ECE region is a net exporter of sawn hardwood, with only the European subregion exporting less than they import. In 2020, the apparent consumption went down throughout all three subregions, by 4.8% in Europe, 17.0% in the EECCA and 27.7% in North America.
41. European hardwood lumber production fell by 2.9% in 2020, to 13.5 million m<sup>3</sup>, with consumption declining to 13.6 million m<sup>3</sup>. In the EECCA, sawn hardwood production decreased by 15.9%, to 3.6 million m<sup>3</sup>, and consumption to 1.7 million m<sup>3</sup>. North American sawn hardwood consumption decreased in 2020 to 15.0 million m<sup>3</sup>, and production fell to 17.7 million m<sup>3</sup> (-24.7%).
42. China continued to dominate imports of temperate and tropical sawnwood in 2020, with a total volume of 33.9 million m<sup>3</sup> (valued at \$7.6 billion). ECE region countries dominated global exports of sawnwood, led by Canada and the Russian Federation.
43. Data supplied by ECE member States (all figures are year-on-year) indicate that the production of sawnwood will increase in the ECE region by 4.2% in 2021 and by 2.3% in 2022. Subregionally, the forecast is for Europe to increase by 4.6% in 2021 and by 1.1% in 2022; the EECCA to increase by 3.0% in 2021 and by 5.1% in 2022; and North America to grow by 4.2% in 2021 and by 2.5% in 2022.

### C. Wood-based panels<sup>4</sup>

44. The wood-based panels sector continued to decline in all three subregions in 2020. Panel production decreased by 3.3% overall and apparent consumption was down by 4.3%, mainly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the region's economies. The consumption of structural panels declined by 2.2%, while the consumption of non-structural panels fell by 5.6%.
45. Total wood-based panel production in Europe registered a better performance than real GDP in 2020, driven by a relatively stable construction sector and a strong recovery in furniture production in the second half of the year. Higher output of oriented strandboard (+3.5%) partly offset drops in the production of other panel types. The outlook for 2021 is upbeat, with a growth of 5.8% forecast in Europe for wood-based panels production, given political support for increasing the use of wood in construction embodied in initiatives such as the EU Green Deal, the EU Renovation Wave and the New Bauhaus of the European Union. Poland has particularly strong growth prospects for 2022 production with plywood 10% over 2020, OSB 18% and fibreboard +6%.
46. The apparent consumption of wood-based panels decreased by 6.1% in EECCA in 2020, to 19.2 million m<sup>3</sup>. Production decreased by 3.1% in 2020, to 23.5 million m<sup>3</sup>. Significant increases in production are foreseen for 2021 and 2022.
47. In North America, the apparent consumption of wood-based panels declined by 3.3% in 2020, despite a recovery in housing starts and the remodelling activities in the United States. Production capacity increased slightly (by 0.3%) in the North American structural

<sup>4</sup> Veneer is not included under panels and is not mentioned here.

panel industry in 2020, although capacity utilization decreased from 75.3% in 2019 to 74.5% in 2020. Pandemic-related impacts on supply chains, coupled with a strong demand, caused the prices for structural panels to soar to record levels.

48. Imports of tropical plywood by Japan, the world's largest importer, contracted in volume by 29% in 2020, while the share of domestic plywood increased to 67% of total plywood consumption. In contrast to other major exporters (China, Indonesia and Malaysia), Viet Nam's volume of tropical plywood exports rose significantly (by 32%) in 2020, in response to growth in demand in the United States, the major market.

49. Data supplied by ECE member States (all figures are year-on-year) indicate that the production of wood-based panels in the ECE region will increase by 3.7% in 2021 and by 2.9% in 2022. Subregionally, the forecast is for production to grow in Europe by 3.0% in 2021 and by 1.8% in 2022; expand in the EECCA by 12% in 2021 and by 7.2% in 2022; and increase in North America by 3.0% in 2021 and by 1.3% in 2022.

#### **D. Paper, paperboard and woodpulp**

50. The global pulp, paper and paperboard industry experienced general weakness in 2020 owing to fallouts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The production of graphic paper declined significantly in 2020 because of papermill closures and reduced consumption, as a result of increased electronic communication. In contrast, growth continued in the consumption of sanitary and household papers, certain paperboard products and specialty papers, and pulps, including fluff and dissolving pulp.

51. Owing to decreased demand, prices for printing and writing papers and newsprint remained weak in the EECCA subregion in 2020. Prices were relatively stable for paperboard and tissue but increased marginally for market pulp due to closures and very low levels of incremental capacity. A significant rebound in market-pulp prices began in early 2021, aided by stronger demand out of China. It flattened out later in the year.

52. The production of graphic papers declined by 16.3% in Europe in 2020 and by 24.0% in North America but rose by 4.0% in the EECCA. Apparent consumption also fell in Europe (by 2.7%) and North America (by 25.6%) but increased in the EECCA (by 14.8%), in part due to closures of paper mills in Western Europe.

53. The production of packaging materials rose throughout the ECE region in 2020: it increased in Europe by 1.2%, in the EECCA by 4.1% and in North America by 0.6%. The apparent consumption of packaging material fell in Europe by 0.7% and in the EECCA by 5.4%, but it increased in North America by 0.3%.

54. Export and import unit values fell for all graphic grades throughout the ECE region in 2020. Prices for market pulp, graphic and specialty papers and packaging materials rose because of a stronger demand in 2021, when economies re-opened again after the downturn in global activity caused by the pandemic.

55. The COVID-19 measures also had a significant impact on the flow of recovered paper and paperboard throughout the ECE region in 2020. The collection of recovered paper was impeded in many countries owing to health measures or lack of manpower linked to the pandemic. The flow of paper changed as well from office buildings to private households and communal collection centres. The collection of wastepaper was temporarily suspended, and its cross-border transportation temporarily disrupted.

56. Countries in the ECE generally depend heavily on exporting recovered paper and paperboard to China. During the pandemic, however, China imported only 6.9 million tonnes of recovered paper in 2020, a drop of 33.5% (3.5 million tonnes) compared with 2019. China implemented a complete import ban on recovered paper from any country across all grades in January 2021. This has significant impacts on global flows of recovered paper. On the other hand, China imported 2.5 million tonnes of recycled pulp (replacing recovered paper) in 2020, three times as much as in 2019.

57. Data supplied by ECE member States (all amounts are year-on-year) indicate that the production of paper and paperboard will increase by 3.8% in the ECE region in 2021 and

1.3% in 2022. Subregionally, the forecast is that paper and paperboard production will increase in Europe by 3.9% in 2021 and by 0.3% in 2022; increase in the EECCA by 7.0% in 2021 and by 5.0% in 2022; and increase in North America by 3.4% in 2021 and 1.8% in 2022. Woodpulp production is forecast to increase by 1.1% in 2021 and decline by 0.3% in 2022 in the ECE region. Subregionally, woodpulp production is forecast to grow in Europe by 2.7% in 2021 and expand slightly by 0.1% in 2022; increase in EECCA by 1.0% in 2021 and 2.0 % in 2022; and in North America increase by 0.2% in 2021 and decline by 0.7% in 2022.

## **E. Wood energy**

58. Wood energy plays a significant role in the renewable-energy portfolios across the ECE region. For example, 50% of households in Slovenia use wood fuels for heating. According to official reports, woodfuel production and consumption decreased slightly (by about 14.1 million m<sup>3</sup>) in the region in 2020, to 246 million m<sup>3</sup>. Many member States in the European subregion adopted additional policies that favour the use of wood for heat and power generation in 2021.

59. Much of the recent new demand for wood energy in the ECE region has been triggered by commercial electricity production; future growth might focus on industrial and residential heating and combined heat and power.

60. The consumption of wood pellets is increasing steadily, both for industrial applications (electricity and heat production) and in the residential sector for heating. The ECE region is the global centre for the production and consumption of wood pellets, accounting for 80% of world production and 90% of global exports.

61. A total of 39.4 million tonnes of wood pellets was produced in the ECE region in 2020, an increase of 4.2% over 2019. Among the subregions, Europe was the largest consumer and leading exporter in 2020. Wood-pellet production in the Russian Federation grew by 6.5%, year-on-year.

62. Worldwide production of ENplus-certified pellets exceeded 12 million tonnes in 2020 and is expected to surpass 14 million tonnes in 2021. Germany produced the largest volume of certified wood pellets in 2020 in the world, at more than 3 million tonnes.

63. Policies promoting renewable energies and economic recovery in the wake and aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic could spur additional growth in wood-energy demand and production. The evolution of public policy, including sustainable supply and the efficient conversion of biomass into renewable energy, continues to shape wood-energy systems, as illustrated by recent government actions in the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States.

64. Outside the ECE region, Viet Nam has become a major producer of wood pellets. Its exports of 3.1 million tonnes of wood pellets in 2020 made it the world's second-largest wood-pellet exporter, after the United States. The Republic of Korea and Japan are now the world's third- and fourth-largest wood pellet importers, respectively, at 3 million and 2 million tonnes in 2020.

65. Data supplied by ECE member States (all figures are year-on-year) indicate that the production of wood pellets in the ECE region will increase by 6.1% in 2021 and by 4.7% in 2022. Subregionally, the forecast is for wood-pellet production to grow in Europe by 4.7% in 2021 and by 4.2% in 2022; to increase in the EECCA by 15% in 2021 and again in 2022; and to increase in North America by 6.1% in 2021 and by 2.7% in 2022.

## **F. Value-added wood products**

66. Value-added wood products are primary wood products that have been further processed into secondary products such as furniture, builders' joinery, and carpentry (BJC), profiled wood, and engineered wood products (EWPs). Demand is linked to drivers such as economic growth, housing and construction, fashion and design, and demographics. Efforts

to increase wood use in construction are bearing fruit, for example in Germany the share of wooden single and two-family homes has risen from 6% to 21% in 30 years.

67. BJC comprises a wide array of wood products, including wooden windows and doors; pre-assembled wooden flooring; posts and beams; shakes and shingles; and EWPs, which include I-beams (also called I-joists); finger-jointed sawnwood; glulam (sawnwood glued into beams); laminated veneer lumber (LVL); and mass timber panels, including cross-laminated timber (CLT). Profiled wood is wood shaped by machines, such as mouldings, tongue-and-groove, and lap siding.

68. The furniture sector had a challenging year in 2020, with the pandemic hitting both demand and supply. Worldwide, the consumption of furniture contracted by 10% (\$40 billion) in 2020, to about \$400 billion. Nevertheless, growth in furniture production and trade is expected to resume in 2021, with pre-pandemic import levels expected to be attained in 2022. One segment declined considerably, office-furniture. With stay-at-home orders, demand was not only reduced during the pandemic but increased remote work could become a permanent post-pandemic feature. This might then lead to significant decreases in office furniture demand and office furniture configurations. It can be expected that the impact on office spaces and demand for office furniture will unfold in three phases: the adoption of urgent solutions during the emergency situation; medium-term solutions; and long-term changes in office and public spaces. This will likely lead to a reduction in the total required office space as more people will work remotely at least part of the time.

69. Forecasts in early 2020 were particularly negative for the BJC and profiled-wood segments. Markets for BJC and profiled wood trade are highly concentrated. Imports of profiled wood by the top five importing countries (United States, Germany, France, United Kingdom and Japan) account for more than half of the global trade and markets weakened significantly in France and Japan.

70. Cross-laminated timber (CLT) production and demand continued to grow. Producers in Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Switzerland are reported to have produced slightly more than 1 million m<sup>3</sup> of CLT in 2020, an increase of 15% over 2019. The sector in these countries is expected to continue growing in 2021 at a similar or even slightly higher rate. Production in these countries accounts for more than 70% of the produced volume of CLT, and a further expansion of capacities (+650,000 m<sup>3</sup>) in the five aforementioned countries is expected in 2021 and 2022. In addition to the continued strong role in CLT production in these five countries, large new lines will begin operation in other parts of Europe. Currently, it is reported that capacities of 227,000 m<sup>3</sup> in Scandinavia are expected to nearly double to reach 462,000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2022. Two CLT plants are also built or are in the testing phase in the Russian Federation, and in Ukraine.

71. A wide variety of products categorized as mass timber products is in production in North America. The current practical capacity of these plants is 910,000 m<sup>3</sup>, but the majority (slightly over half) of this production continues to be aimed at industrial matting (platforms for equipment to work on in muddy or environmentally sensitive areas). Thus, the practical capacity of mass timber panels for use in buildings in North America is estimated to have reached half a million m<sup>3</sup> by the end of 2020. A total of 14 plants were producing mass timber panels in North America, with a further three under construction and three more announced.

72. The availability of data on trade of EWP is expected to significantly improve in 2022 due to the introduction of new trade classifications Glulam (4418.81), CLT (4418.82) and I-beams (4418.83) in the global commodities classification system of the World Customs Organization in 2022. A number of efforts to use wood for other value-added purposes are taking place, e.g. textiles from pulp without chemicals and lignin for bio-batteries.

**Anexo II**

[En inglés únicamente]

**Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025****I. Programme of Work**

1. The oversight responsibility for the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission remains with the members of the Committee and the Commission.
2. The implementation and coordination responsibilities for the IPoW of the Committee and the Commission rests primarily with ECE and FAO through the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section. The implementation is supported by the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, the ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists, as well as relevant units of the ECE and FAO. The Programme is also implemented with the support of member States, regional economic integration organizations in close cooperation with relevant organizations and processes at all levels and other relevant stakeholders participating in the Committee and Commission intergovernmental processes. The IPoW encompasses a broad range of work and is designed to be comprehensive and flexible. Over the course of implementation, member States and regional economic integration organizations may engage with specific IPoW components according to their interest and capacity. IPoW components will be implemented in different ways and degrees, depending in part on member country interest and engagement.
3. The IPoW 2022-2025 may contribute to the follow-up to or implementation of: (i) the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, (ii) the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and declared Global Forest Goals, (iii) the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Quadrennial Programme of Work 2021-2024, (iv) the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the post-2020 biodiversity framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, (v) the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and (vi) other international and regional objectives and initiatives relevant to forests, including the Bonn Challenge/ECCA30; (vii) sustainable and resilient recovery of the forest sector following the COVID-19 pandemic, including through a circular economy and broader sustainability approaches and nature-based solutions.

**A. Scope**

4. The IPoW covers all fifty-six member States of the ECE region, in line with the Committee's membership<sup>5</sup>. Forty member States, which are all ECE member States, and the European Union, are members of the Commission<sup>6</sup>.
5. The Programme encompasses the following main topics related to forests, sustainable forest management and the forest sector:
  - (a) The state of forests and sustainable forest management;
  - (b) The role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation;

<sup>5</sup> Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan.

<sup>6</sup> Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan and the European Union.

(c) The implementation and promotion of sustainable forest management, according to the seven thematic elements of the United Nations Forest Instrument as well as Global Forest Goals;

(d) Forest landscape restoration;

(e) Forest related industries and the use of forest products throughout the value chains they comprise (notably construction and energy) with emphasis on innovative products and applications;

(f) Forest and forest sector policies, institutions and instruments, including the linkages between forests and rules and regulations on wood harvesting, transformation, reuse and recycling of wood products; climate change policies, and other policies;

(g) The contribution of the forest sector in the transition towards a circular and bioeconomy in the context of broader sustainability and societal goals, sustainable forest management and the role of forests as nature-based solutions in the post-COVID-19 recovery to increase the resilience of society;

(h) Forest products and ecosystem services, employment and other socioeconomic aspects; including economic vitality of the sector; and

(i) To contribute to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the forest-related Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as well as the implementation of United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030,<sup>7</sup> within the existing mandates of ECE and FAO, as well as the implementation of the new FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031.

## **B. Overall goal**

6. The overall goal of the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025 of the Committee and the Commission is to support member States and regional economic integration organizations in their efforts to sustainably manage forests so that they provide goods and services to benefit society.

## **C. Objective of the Integrated Programme of Work**

7. The IPoW aims to assist member States and regional economic integration organizations in achieving the overall goal described above by providing the best available information; facilitating policy dialogues and communication; and building capacity.

## **D. Structure and Work Areas**

8. The IPoW remains structured around four main functions, or work areas, as follows:

- **Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment**
- **Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice**
- **Work Area 3: Communication and outreach**
- **Work Area 4: Capacity-building**

9. While work is formally organized within these areas it should be recognized that considerable attention is to be devoted to cross-cutting issues and communication between the areas.

10. Specific activities and outputs proposed for the four Work Areas are outlined below. Work in each area is supported by dedicated Teams of Specialists (ToS).

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<sup>7</sup> For more information about the Strategy for landscape restoration and greening infrastructure in the Caucasus and Central Asia please refer to ECE/TIM/2020/3

### **Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment**

11. The data collection and reporting work in the region consists of the following:

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics and other information on: forest resources, forest health, damage and disturbance processes, forest products (wood and non-wood), forest functions and services, progress towards sustainable forest management, forest policies, institutions and instruments, and the contribution of the forest sector to a circular and bioeconomy in the context of broader sustainability and societal goals;

(b) Analysis and assessment of the state of forests in regard to items identified in (a) above; and

(c) Cooperation with and contribution to international organizations and processes on sustainable forest management, including the support to the UNFF Secretariat in the production of the UNFF flagship publication, the support to the FAO FRA Secretariat in the preparation of the Global Forest Resources Assessment report, the development and use of regional criteria and indicators, and the support to Forest Europe in the preparation of the report on the State of Europe's Forests.

12. The monitoring and analysis of developments in various forest-related areas and cooperation with other relevant organizations working in these areas, while avoiding duplication. This includes the gathering of comprehensive statistics and data (quantitative and qualitative), and developing methodologies for data collection, analysis and assessments on:

(a) Forest product markets;

(b) Forest health, damage and disturbance processes, sustainable forest management, and the functions and services forests provide;

(c) Long-term supply of and demand for wood and other forest goods and services;

(d) Use of wood energy and its implications for sustainable forest management; and

(e) Jobs, employment and working conditions.

13. Data are collected based on agreed standards and rules in partnership with member States, regional economic integration organizations, international organizations and processes, and the scientific community. The Teams of Specialists working in this area will emphasize integration and consolidation of reporting activities with other processes in the region (e.g. Forest Europe, FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment process). Activities under Work Area 1 are also expected to improve the quality of information, ensure international compatibility, provide data storage dissemination and analysis of the information, and assist member States and regional economic integration organizations in strengthening their capacity in these areas (see Work Area 4 on capacity-building).

14. Specific outputs from this Work Area include among others:

(a) The Forest Products Annual Market Review;

(b) Joint Pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management (in collaboration with FAO FRA Secretariat and Forest Europe); support to Forest Europe in the preparation of the report on the State of Europe's Forests;

(c) Reporting on forest products and wood energy, through the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire; the Timber Forecast Questionnaire; the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry;

(d) Regional input to the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment in cooperation with Forest Europe; including the participation in its Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire;

(e) Associated databases of the previously mentioned outputs;

(f) Forest products market statements and forest products forecast tables;

(g) Reporting on regional progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and achievement of forest-related SDGs, and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030;

(h) A study on forest health, damage and disturbance in the region;

(i) Studies on forest employment and working conditions;

(j) Assessment of the contribution of the forest sector to a green, circular and bioeconomy, in the context of broader sustainability and societal goals; and ad hoc enquiries and studies contributing to areas mentioned above upon decision by the Committee and the Commission.

### **Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice**

15. This component involves the organization of regional policy dialogues and specific studies and the facilitation of national dialogues on request from member States and regional economic integration organizations. The subjects to be covered will address issues mentioned in the scope of the IPoW. This work will contribute to various regional and international efforts including:

(a) The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and forest related SDGs, the Paris Climate Agreement, the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and the Quadrennial Programme of Work 2021-2024 of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(b) The relevant global (mainly the United Nations Forum on Forests and the FAO Committee on Forestry), regional and national forest dialogues, including the regional initiative ECCA30;

(c) Activities in this Work Area also contribute to efforts to promote cross-sectoral cooperation.

16. Specific outputs from this Work Area include:

(a) Analyses, guidelines and recommendations to support member States and regional economic integration organizations in implementing the initiatives and plans listed in 15 (a) through (c);

(b) Implementation of commitments under the Bonn Challenge/ECCA30;

(c) Contributions to the Forest Europe work programme;

(d) Policy dialogues and workshops for the region;

(e) Dissemination of the results of the Forest Sector Outlook Study; and

(f) Policy-related sections of ECE and FAO joint work/studies, such as relevant reviews and reports on the status and trends of forests and sustainable forest management.

### **Work Area 3: Communication and outreach**

17. Communicating effectively within and outside the forest and forest products sector is essential to promote sustainable forest management. Enhancing the efforts of the Committee and the Commission to reach out to relevant constituencies to draw attention to the regional priorities in the forest sector and to increase the dissemination of information, tools, and practices, at the national, regional and global levels, will make an important contribution to this end. A particular focus will be placed on promoting the wider dissemination of information and results through effective communication and enhanced use of information technology. This will be achieved through:

(a) Enhancing dissemination of information resulting from the implementation of Work Area 1, Work Area 2 and Work Area 4, including through policy briefs, press briefs, the Forest Information Billboard, social media/networks, videos, ad hoc studies and use of new technologies;

(b) Organizing events and campaigns in support of: sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration, forest products and services, and promoting the



results of the Joint Section's work (e.g. the International Day of Forests, the European and Global Forest Weeks);

(c) Maintaining and improving the ECE/FAO website and the INForest website, especially regarding user-friendliness and design;

(d) Contributing to relevant events in member States, regional economic integration organizations and assisting them with the dissemination of their forest-related announcements (e.g. capacity-building workshops, special public relations events) in cooperation with member States, regional economic integration organizations and other stakeholders, also across sectors and disciplines (e.g. food, fashion, construction, agriculture);

(e) Carrying out outreach activities beyond the forest sector, highlighting the relevance of healthy forests and forest products, forest landscape restoration and services to other sectors (e.g. biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and buildings, textiles, circular economy and bioeconomy); and

(f) Communicating relevant news on the work of other forest-related international fora.

18. Specific outputs from this Work Area include:

(a) Events and campaigns (e.g. contribution to the organization of International Forest Day events, contribution to the organization of the European Forest Week, raising awareness of ECCA30 etc.);

(b) Policy briefs;

(c) Press briefs;

(d) Contribution to the Forest Information Billboard;

(e) Contribution to, and dissemination of, ad hoc studies through communication channels and enhanced use of information technology;

(f) Inputs to the website;

(g) Improvement of online platforms and supporting databases for sharing of forest and forest sector information to the public.

#### **Work Area 4: Capacity-building**

19. While all member States and regional economic integration organizations benefit from international cooperation through the IPoW, technical cooperation and capacity-building work is directed primarily to countries in Eastern and South-East Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. This work aims at encouraging sustainable forest management, data collection, monitoring and analysis, as well as engaging national experts from the region in activities relevant to the region. This work area addresses the following themes within the scope of the IPoW, including:

(a) National systems for forest monitoring and statistical reporting;

(b) Forest communication strategies;

(c) Nature-based solutions, including mitigation and adaptation to climate change;

(d) Forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge/ECCA30;

(e) Urban forestry

(f) Implementation of forest sector outlook modelling at the national level;

(g) Agroforestry products and their trade

(h) The implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and countries' voluntary national contributions; and

(i) The contribution of the forest sector to:

(i) A circular and bioeconomy in the context of broader sustainability and societal goals (including the sustainable use of natural resources);

(ii) The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of forest-related SDGs;

(iii) The implementation of the Paris Agreement.

20. Specific outputs from this Work Area include:

- (a) Publications;
- (b) Capacity-building workshops (virtual and physical);
- (c) Training material and recommendations;
- (d) Technical assistance, including targeted expertise and;
- (e) Assistance with developing networks for cooperation and development

## **E. Principles guiding implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work**

21. Implementation should be guided by the following principles:

### **Partnership**

22. There will be a strong focus on working in partnerships with international and regional actors as the most effective way of optimizing benefits and avoiding potential duplication of activities. The Committee and the Commission will seek and welcome cooperation on any of the relevant outputs under the four Work Areas.

### **Outreach to other constituencies**

23. In the implementation of the IPoW, the Committee and the Commission will look beyond the traditional forest constituency to ensure the relevance of the forest sector and its contribution to other sectors is well recognized and understood. They will coordinate relevant actions with, for example, the environment, biodiversity, energy, water, agriculture, construction and textile sectors, using the potentials offered by the ECE (including a nexus on sustainable use of natural resources) and FAO.

### **Expert advice**

24. The work and expected outputs of the Teams of Specialists will be fully aligned with the IPoW and its objectives, and will support the related areas of work, recognizing the importance of the involvement of the scientific community and forest practitioners. In this context, the Forest Communicators Network ToS should support the other ToS on outreach and dissemination. Due regard should be given to the Committee and Commission official languages when organizing meetings and issuing publications and documents. In case of resource constraints limiting the translation of full publications, efforts should be undertaken to translate executive summaries.

### **Involvement of the private sector**

25. The IPoW recognizes the private sector as one of the key actors for developing sustainable forest management, sustainable forest products and services and the transition towards a circular economy and bioeconomy in the context of broader sustainability and societal goals. The participation of the private sector in the work of the Committee and the Commission, including in the annual market discussions, will be actively sought, in line with the ECE and FAO organizational policies. Increased participation from various relevant stakeholders should be encouraged.

### **Gender mainstreaming and respect of the rights of people with disabilities**

26. The IPoW gives due consideration to making the concerns and experiences of women, men and people with disabilities an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of its activities, so that women and men and people with disabilities benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated (United Nations ECOSOC, 1997). Gender mainstreaming and respecting the rights of disabled people is a central part of ECE and FAO's strategic frameworks and their policies and programmes.

## **F. Support to the Integrated Programme of Work and related resources**

27. IPoW implementation progress will be reported annually. Implementation will depend on regular programme funding levels and to a large extent on extrabudgetary resources, as well as available human resources. Member States, regional economic integration organizations and other donors are encouraged to support such activities in kind and/or with the necessary level of financial resources. The annual list of activities, which is submitted every year to the Working Party and subsequently to the Committee and the Commission for their approval, will show clearly the areas of work (e.g. capacity-building) or activities where extrabudgetary funding will be needed.

28. A broader engagement by member States and regional economic integration organizations should be sought. In particular, resources should be identified to finance the participation of delegates from eligible countries with economies in transition. In addition, online and hybrid meeting formats should be used as appropriate wherever convenient to allow for broader participation.

29. The IPoW should have the flexibility to address emerging issues of relevance to member countries and the forestry community at large.

## **G. Expert support**

30. The ToS provide advice and undertake activities that support the implementation of the IPoW. They may also provide guidance to the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on relevant Work Areas, help with outreach activities to country-level experts, and produce team-specific outputs in support of the IPoW. The ToS are established by the ECE Executive Committee, with secretariat services provided by both ECE and FAO through their separate budgetary processes. Their terms of reference are approved by the Committee and the Commission. The Teams of Specialists report annually to the Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.

31. Guidelines for the Teams of Specialists, mandates, procedures, and the responsibilities of Team leaders, members and the secretariat can be found in the Draft Integrated Programme of Work Part II (ECE/TIM/2021/7-FO:EFC/2021/7).

## **II. Terms of Reference of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

32. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management is a subsidiary body of the Committee and the Commission and contributes to the implementation of the IPoW of those two bodies. It does so by coordinating the ToS in line with the activities of the IPoW as well as providing technical advice. It takes instructions from the Committee and the Commission and meets annually to:

- (a) Provide implementation guidance for all areas of the IPoW;
- (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 COFFI and the EFC for consideration.

33. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management shall, for each Work Area, 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.

34. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management 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, the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management may 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, regional economic integration organizations and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations.

35. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, as part of its work for the Committee and the Commission, 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, analysing 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, forest policies and associated institutions;

(d) Contribute and provide technical advice to the Committee and the Commission 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 Outlook Studies and the Forest Products Annual Market Reviews;

(e) Invite other sectors to the sessions to discuss issues related to forest information and management matters 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, including the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Conference of European Statisticians, Forest Europe and Eurostat, to the sessions, with a view to coordinating activities and avoiding any duplication of effort.

36. The work of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management should be assessed in line with the Strategic Review of the IPoW process, which will take place in 2023.

### **III. Terms of Reference of the ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists**

37. In order to support the implementation of the IPoW, the following Teams of Specialists are established for the period 2022-2025.

<i>Name of Team of Specialists</i>	<i>Contribution to the Programme of Work</i>
Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management	Work Area 1, Work Area 2, and Work Area 4: to focus on sustainable forest management monitoring, assessment and reporting and work on criteria and indicators. This ToS will be serviced by the Joint Section.
Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests	Work Area 1 and Work Area 2: to contribute to science and policy cooperation on boreal forests and improve overall awareness of boreal forests. This ToS will be serviced by the Joint Section.
Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products	Work Area 1, Work Area 2, and Work Area 4: to focus on forest products and markets. This ToS will be serviced by the Joint Section.
Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics	Work Area 1 and Work Area 4: to support the work on statistics for forest products and wood energy. This ToS will be serviced by the Joint Section.
Team of Specialists on Forest Communication	Work Area 3 and Work Area 4: to provide advice to the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section in support of relevant events, campaigns and public relations efforts. This ToS will be serviced by FAO headquarters.

38. The Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook is suspended 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.

39. The ToS on Green Jobs is discontinued.<sup>8</sup>

## **A. ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management**

*Reference to the Integrated Programme of Work: Work Area 1, “Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment”, Work Area 2, “Policy dialogue and advice” and Work Area 4, “Capacity-building”*

### **1. Objectives**

40. To strengthen the work on: (i) forest monitoring and reporting, (ii) assessing the state of forests and sustainability of forest management and (iii) monitoring the role of the forest sector in a green circular and bioeconomy in the region;

41. To advise the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on the implementation of activities in Work Area 1 “Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment”, with regard to the

<sup>8</sup> The Joint Section will continue to contribute to the work on green jobs in the forest sector in collaboration with relevant actors within the scope of the Integrated Programme of Work. In addition, an expert network on green jobs in the forest sector was established under Forest Europe. More information about this conclusion can be found in background document ECE/TIM/2021/Inf.2-FO:EFC/2021/Inf.2.

collection, harmonization, review, analysis and dissemination of information on forests and sustainable forest management in the region.

## **2. Activities and functions**

42. The Team will support the data collection process of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 reporting process (including the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire);

43. Contribute to the joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe data collection on forests and forest management in the pan-European region and assist the preparatory process of the Forest Europe State of Europe's Forests 2025 (support data collection, analysis, drafting and review).

44. Contribute to the work on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management agreed by Forest Europe and the Montréal Process.

45. Contribute to the work on the development and implementation of global and regional forest indicators under the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030.

46. Contribute to further work on the assessment of the sustainability of forest management.

47. Contribute to the development of the concepts and methodologies for monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest resources, functions and services and sustainable forest management, including forest damage and disturbance.

48. Contribute to the conceptualization of monitoring, analysis and reporting systems on forest resources, functions and services and sustainable forest management.

49. Support international work and cooperation on monitoring of forest resources and sustainable forest management, including the European Union (i.e. Eurostat, the European Environment Agency and the Joint Research Centre) and other organizations (i.e., the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests and the European Forest Institute) in this area.

50. Collaborate with other ECE/ FAO Teams of Specialists on cross-cutting issues.

## **3. Expected major outputs and contributions**

51. Review and contribute to documents, reports, and meetings related to the global reporting framework – in cooperation with the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment Team.

52. Review and contribute to documents, reports, and meetings, especially related to the activities of the Workstream 1 “A dynamic concept of Sustainable Forest Management in Europe” under Forest Europe. Support the organization of the workshop for authors and national correspondents in the region; support the production and dissemination of the State of Europe's Forests.

53. Review and contribute to documents, reports, and meetings on global and regional forest indicators to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030.

54. Advise on criteria and indicator processes, as well as designing an improved statistical data management system on forest resources, their functions and services, and forest management.

55. Advise on the other data-related work within other Work Areas, and in particular the measurement of the forest sector contribution to a circular and bioeconomy and capacity development.

#### 4. Background

<b>Established/ Approved by:</b>	Joint session of the Committee and the Commission, Rome, Italy, 2021.
<b>Duration:</b>	From January 2022 to December 2023. Renewable to 2025.
<b>Methods of work:</b>	Regular (at least annual) Team of Specialists meetings (including its steering group and thematic sub-groups meetings).  Thematic, subregional workshops, seminars, events. Participation in workshops with Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 national correspondents.  Reviews and consultations, in person, via videoconference and electronic means.  Review and, if feasible, preparation of background materials, discussion papers, enquiries.  Other forms of work to be determined by the Team of Specialists, if needed.
<b>Reporting:</b>	Annually, to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
<b>Team leader:</b>	To be elected at the first Team meeting

### B. ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests

*Reference to the Integrated Programme of Work: Work Area 1, “Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment”, and Work Area 2, “Policy dialogue and advice”*

#### 1. Objective(s)<sup>9</sup>

56. Contribute to science and policy cooperation on boreal forests, while reducing duplication of effort and encouraging the pursuit of cost-effective approaches for circumboreal cooperation;

57. Increase collaboration with the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) and other boreal-related research organizations, in order to strengthen science and policy cooperation with regard to the boreal biome;

58. Improve awareness and understanding of the role boreal forests play in global issues such as climate change and sustainable economic development, as well as in addressing the challenges reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

59. Advise the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on any matters related to boreal forests within the Integrated Programme of Work.

#### 2. Activities and functions

60. Contribute to the exchange of information, experiences and best practices on boreal forests;

61. Facilitate a science policy dialogue on boreal forest issues;

62. Contribute, where appropriate, to identifying knowledge gaps that – when addressed – can provide policy responses to international challenges;

63. Work with other international bodies, including the IBFRA, with a view to achieving coordination of initiatives;

64. Collaborate with other ECE/ FAO Teams of Specialists on cross-cutting issues.

<sup>9</sup> As outlined in the Haparanda Declaration of 2018.

### 3. Expected Major Outputs

65. Identify priority issues for the sustainable management of boreal forests, taking into account regional realities and differences. The Team will focus on increasing knowledge and understanding of issues related to boreal forests.

66. It will:

(a) Produce and contribute to the production of information products that reflect collaborative efforts on boreal forest issues, e.g. in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, and the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work;

(b) Produce, based on existing information, assessment and scoping documents, presentations and other information products describing existing conditions in boreal forests, and identifying important issues and opportunities in their management;

(c) Provide consultation and advice on boreal-related issues as needed.

### 4. Background

<b>Established/ Approved by:</b>	Joint session of the Committee and the Commission, Rome, Italy, 2021.
<b>Duration:</b>	From January 2022 to December 2023. Renewable to 2025.
<b>Methods of work:</b>	Annual meeting or other methods to be determined by the Team.
<b>Reporting:</b>	Annually, to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
<b>Team leader:</b>	To be elected at first Team meeting

## C. ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products

*Reference to the Integrated Programme of Work: Work Area 1, "Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment", Work Area 2, "Policy dialogue and advice", and Work Area 4, "Capacity-building"*

### 1. Objectives

67. To advise and support work on the sustainable development of forest product markets and related policies in the region.

68. To raise awareness on the role that sustainable forest products can play in greening economies and in providing sustainable products and livelihoods.

### 2. Activities and functions

69. Provide guidance and referrals to the best available experts and/or sources of information for the organization of:

(a) Market discussions; and

(b) Workshop(s) on all topics related to forest products, including the role of forest products in a green circular and bioeconomy, the sustainable production, trade and consumption of wood energy, the use of wood for so-called "green buildings construction", innovative wood products and other topics in line with the IPoW.

70. Provide expertise and outreach to experts for drafting market-related publications and products, including the technical reviews contained in, and the production of, the Forest Products Annual Market Review.

71. Advise the secretariat on the organization of meetings related to the sustainable use of forest products.



72. Advise the secretariat on strategies to carry out the Programme of Work in the forest products marketing area, in particular to assist in strengthening the focus on innovative forest products and on improving knowledge on wood sustainability credentials.

73. Build links with standard/certifying organizations, as well as forest products trade associations, to promote the use of forest products as a sustainable material for construction and other uses.

74. Build links with non-forest bodies within the United Nations, including with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.

75. Build links, both informal and formal, with other Teams of Specialists in areas where cross-cutting issues are shared and where assistance and coordination can be mutually beneficial.

76. Build upon the work of previous capacity-building workshops and consider organizing similar events in association with regional bodies.

77. Organize an annual workshop on enhancing societal awareness of the contribution of the forest products industry to a sustainable economy; subject to availability of funds.

78. Work with the secretariat to attract and enhance the involvement of the forest products industry in official meetings, aiming at:

(a) Enhancing societal awareness of the forest products industry in sustainable economies;

(b) Holding a full day session focusing on market/industry issues;

(c) Organizing industry visits; and

(d) Organizing side events that involve the forest products industry sector.

79. Provide a network of expertise and advice, including on priorities.

80. Collaborate with other ECE/ FAO Teams of Specialists on cross-cutting issues

### 3. Expected major outputs and contributions

81. Market discussions covering forest product market topics that are current and relevant to the region and contribute to the Market Statement.

82. Bi-annual meetings to discuss a list of recommendations on how to improve the content, structure and focus of the forest products marketing Work Area in general and the Forest Products Annual Market Review in particular (typically during the Team of Specialists meeting that is held at the time of Committee, Commission and Working Party meetings).

### 4. Background

**Established/ Approved by:** Joint session of the Committee and the Commission, Rome, Italy, 2021.

**Duration:** From January 2022 to December 2023. Renewable to 2025.

**Methods of work:** Annual meeting. Other methods to be determined by the Team.

**Reporting:** Annually, to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

**Team leader:** To be elected at first Team meeting.

**Communication:** The Team leader and secretary should ensure close communication and collaboration with the Teams of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics.

## **D. ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics**

*Reference to the Integrated Programme of Work: Work Area 1, “Data, monitoring and assessment” and Work Area 4, “Capacity-building”*

### **1. Objectives**

83. To advise and support work on forest products statistics, including data coverage and collection, validation and classifications used in the region;
84. To advise and support work on wood energy data statistics, namely the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry, including data coverage, collection and validation;
85. To suggest and support proposals for increasing the reliability, visibility and usefulness of forest products- and wood energy- statistics.
86. To advise on implementation of activities in Work Area 1 relating to forest products- and wood energy- statistics.

### **2. Activities and functions**

87. Review materials and provide guidance on questionnaires such as the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ), Timber Forecast Questionnaire (TFQ), Engineered Wood Products (EWP) and the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) and associated procedures;
88. Develop methods to possibly expand the scope to include production and trade of other secondary wood products (furniture, joinery, etc.) and develop a methodology for data-collection on those products;
89. Actively cooperate and partner with other organizations involved in wood energy with the aim of sharing and improving wood energy data and information;
90. Investigate required changes in the Harmonized System classification; prepare for the implementation of the 2027 Harmonized System and future potential changes to the Harmonized System and other classifications;
91. Continue development of conversion factors for secondary forest products (engineered wood products, joinery, furniture) and energy products;
92. Support possible publication of a roundwood balance study and continue to develop a methodology;
93. Strengthen capacities in member States to submit improved data quality and increased data coverage through knowledge sharing and capacity-building events;
94. Disseminate information on forest products- and wood energy- statistics further through the ToS network;
95. Advise on issues to coordinate with other members of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics;
96. Recommend improvements to data systems, including data capture;
97. Recommend methods for improving data reliability;
98. Coordinate and communicate with other ToS on areas where appropriate and as requested.

### **3. Expected major outputs and contributions**

99. Recommendations for revisions to the JFSQ, TFQ and JWEE questionnaires;
100. Submission of potential input for the 2027 revision of the Harmonized System and further revisions in later years;
101. Proposal for improvements for national and international practices in data validation and, if required, a working paper describing best practices;

102. Revision of the list of recommendations on the methods for analysis and conduct of the relevant questionnaires;

103. A recommended procedure for estimating wood balance, including the desirable level of detail to include and conversion factors to use;

104. Contributions to possible studies on conversion factors, improving post-consumer recovered wood data, roundwood balance and double counting issue, in collaboration with other Teams of Specialists;

105. Organization of two to three capacity-building events on forest products- and wood energy- statistics resulting in improved quality and quantity of national reports;

106. Contribute relevant data to SDG reporting at any level.

#### 4. Background

**Established/ Approved by:** Joint session of the Committee and the Commission, Rome, Italy, 2021.

**Duration:** From January 2022 to December 2023. Renewable to 2025.

**Methods of work:** Annual meeting of the ToS, online webinars and discussions and capacity-building events. Further methods to be determined by the Team.

**Reporting:** Annually, to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

**Team leader:** To be elected at the first Team meeting

**Communication:** The Team Leader and secretariat should ensure close cooperation with the ToS on Sustainable Forest Products, and the ToS on Sustainable Forest Management. The Team should also seek to communicate and collaborate in other fora working in this area, and to collaborate with others (e.g. Forest Europe, IEA, IPCC, IRENA, OECD, Eurostat, ITTO, EFI).

### E. ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Communication (Forest Communicators' Network)

*Reference to the Integrated Programme of Work: Work Area 3, "Communication and outreach" and Work Area 4, "Capacity-building"*

#### 1. Objectives

107. To improve the ability of the forest sector to communicate effectively within and outside the sector on the role of forests in sustainable development.

108. To advise the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and support communication activities in all Work Areas.

#### 2. Activities and functions

109. The Team of Specialists provides services and advice in the communication field to benefit the forest and non-forest community and raise awareness about sustainable forest management by:

(a) Supporting forest-related ECE/FAO intergovernmental bodies in reaching out to relevant constituencies, within and outside the forest sector;

(b) Providing a forum for international interaction and cooperation in forest related communications;

- (c) Developing the professionalism of forest communicators by introducing and encouraging state-of-the-art and innovative communication approaches, strengthening networking and supporting capacities in the region;
- (d) Providing advice for communication activities around the International Day of Forests and European Forest Weeks, upon request by the organizers;
- (e) Raising awareness of the significance of forests and sustainable forest management in achieving the SDGs;
- (f) Contributing to the communication and outreach strategies of ECE, FAO and the United Nations Forum on Forests, in support of the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, in particular its communication and outreach strategy;
- (g) Conducting a survey among forest communicators on current trends and the latest developments and communication challenges in the sector;
- (h) Sharing information and experience with forest communicators' networks established by FAO in other regions;
- (i) Supporting capacity-building activities in cooperation with all other Teams of Specialists, as appropriate;
- (j) Providing advice for communication campaigns and strategies to communicate outputs of other Teams of Specialists to a target audience, upon request by the respective Team of Specialists;
- (k) Developing further approaches and tools for educational work on forests by continued involvement of the Forest Communicators' Network (FCN)-Subgroup-Forest Pedagogics;
- (l) Cooperating with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit and other relevant institutions, organizations, processes and initiatives, on matters relevant to forest communication;
- (m) Identifying other communication work of relevance to forests as well as information-sharing platforms developed by civil society; and
- (n) Developing a proposal for a possible survey on the public perception of forests and the forest sector in the region for submission to potential donors.

### **3. Expected major outputs and contributions**

- 110. An annual proposal for communication activities and messages for the International Day of Forests.
- 111. Proposals for communication activities and communication sessions around the European Forest Week, World Forestry Congress and other international events, as appropriate.
- 112. Proposals for highlighting the significance of forests and sustainable forest management for achieving the SDGs.
- 113. Contributions to the development and implementation of the communication and outreach strategies of ECE, FAO and the United Nations Forum on Forests in support of the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030.
- 114. An information note on activities carried out with the other regional communicators' networks with a focus on global interconnection and outreach – to be included in the ToS annual activities report.

### **4. Background**

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Established/<br/>Approved by:</b> | Joint session of the Committee and the Commission, Rome, Italy, 2021. |
| <b>Duration:</b>                     | From January 2022 to December 2023. Renewable to 2025.                |

<b>Methods of work:</b>	Networking, meetings, workshops, advice on forest communication related issues, including for awareness campaigns.
<b>Reporting:</b>	Annually, to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.
<b>Team leader:</b>	To be elected at the first Team meeting.

## **IV. Guidelines for ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists**

### **A. Introduction**

115. These guidelines were adopted by the joint session of the Committee and the Commission, held from 22 to 25 November 2021 in Rome, Italy. The guidelines shall apply to the ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists, which contribute to the implementation of the IPoW.

116. These guidelines are in line with, and are complementary to the guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Teams of Specialists within ECE as contained in document ECE/EX/2/Rev.1.

### **B. Role of the Teams of Specialists**

117. The ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists are recommended by the Committee and the Commission and established by the ECE Executive Committee to support the work of the IPoW for an initial period of two years, which can be extended, after review every two years, for as long as required. The Committee and the Commission approve the Terms of Reference for all Teams of Specialists at their joint session.

118. The primary role of the Teams of Specialists is to support the implementation of the IPoW as expressed in their respective Terms of Reference. All Teams of Specialists report annually to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party of Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, which gives them guidance and evaluates their work based on their Terms of Reference and Work Plan. In addition, the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management provides recommendations to the Committee and the Commission for updating the Terms of Reference of the Teams of Specialists and for their extension or discontinuation.

119. The Teams of Specialists should contribute to the mainstreaming and dissemination of the work of the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section at national and sub-national levels, as well as into the agendas of other regional and global organizations. The Teams are also expected to contribute to the Forest Information Billboard.

120. Intellectual property of the Team's output remains with the ECE and FAO.

### **C. Membership and Officers**

121. For each Team of Specialists, the secretariat circulates the Terms of Reference to Committee/Commission members and all relevant stakeholders in the region and asks them to nominate their official representative, should they wish to participate in the Team activities. Member States and stakeholders are expected to nominate their representative to a Team based on their interest in the issues covered by this Team and their capacity to support the participation of their representative in the Team's work. On the basis of the answers received, the secretariat prepares a list of Team members and establishes the Team. The request for nomination may be repeated at the end of the first two-year duration or at the beginning of the next IPoW, as appropriate. When member States and stakeholders wish to nominate another or an additional representative to a Team, they notify this proposal to the secretariat, which informs the Team at its next meeting.

122. Experts who were not officially nominated can also contribute to the Team's work, at the invitation of the Team leader and in close consultation with the secretariat. To the extent possible, due consideration should be given to ensuring geographical and gender balance.

123. Each Team of Specialists appoints its officers for a duration of two years: a leader and, if deemed necessary, one or two deputy leaders. After one term of two years, one of the deputy leaders is usually appointed leader. When the Team appoints two deputy leaders, to ensure adequate continuity, the outgoing leader is usually re-appointed as deputy leader. Under special circumstances (e.g. absence of candidates), leader and deputy leaders can be re-appointed if the Team wishes to do so. Candidates for the office of leader should obtain the relevant authorization and secure the necessary resources (time and funding), from their government or organization, to fulfil their responsibilities during their elected terms.

124. Experts contribute to the work of the Teams on the voluntary basis and in their personal capacity, they are not considered part of the ECE and FAO secretariat staff and do not represent ECE or FAO to external world. Presentations of the Team's work to external fora can be done by experts only in their personal capacity and after the consultation with the secretariat.

#### **D. Role of the Team leaders and Team members**

125. With the assistance of and in close cooperation with the secretariat, the leader's responsibilities are to:

- (a) Ensure that the Team's Terms of Reference are applied and lead the Team;
- (b) Conduct the Team meetings and draft meeting reports, in consultation with participants of the meetings;
- (c) Coordinate the preparation of the work plan;
- (d) Undertake substantive work, in particular the preparation of substantive documentation, publications etc. linked to the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section List of Activities<sup>10</sup>;
- (e) Coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the work plan, including raising funds (where appropriate and within limitations set by the UN and FAO);
- (f) Coordinate the preparation and presentation of annual implementation reports at the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management; and
- (g) Organize and attend meetings of the leaders of the Teams of Specialists.

126. When the leader is not able to attend a Team meeting or to represent the Team at a parent body meeting, the leader makes sure that one of the deputy leaders can replace him/her. In addition, deputy leaders may assist the leader with certain tasks such as preparing the work plan or reports, making contacts or fund raising.

127. Team members are expected to actively participate in the Team activities by:

- (a) Attending the Team meetings;
- (b) Contributing to the work between the Team meetings;
- (c) Answering enquiries from the leader or the secretariat; and
- (d) Relaying information on the Team's work at the national and subnational level.

#### **E. Methods of Work**

128. Under the guidance of the leader and with the support of the secretariat, the Team prepares its work plan for a two-year period from its Terms of Reference, which includes:

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<sup>10</sup> List of Activities – official document approved annually by the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party of Forest Statistics, Economics and Management,

(1) tangible outputs that are linked to the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section List of Activities, (2) the time schedule, and (3) the resources needed to implement the plan, including those resulting from fund raising. Teams can create task-oriented groups for a limited period of time (e.g. to advise on the organization of an event or the preparation of a publication). Teams are expected to be self-sustaining, and regular budget funds will not be available to support the Teams. Teams use the work plan format and the report template that are provided by the secretariat.

129. Team meetings are convened by the secretariat in Geneva or any other place where the meetings can be hosted by a member State or a partner organization. Each Team should meet at least once a year for one day or have several shorter online meetings. Teams of Specialists should consider meeting on the margins of, or back-to-back to, meetings where members of the Team participate. It is suggested to utilize electronic means (e-mail, Skype, Microsoft Teams, Zoom or Webex meetings, webinars, and other online formats) when appropriate. The working language of Teams of Specialists is English. In general, no interpretation will be provided. More detailed methods of work may be developed by the Team.

130. The only website for each Team of Specialists will be the one hosted by the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section ([www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org)) and/or FAO ([www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)). All relevant information on Team of Specialists meetings (agenda, presentations, meeting report, list of participants, pictures, etc.) must be made available to the secretariat for posting on the website.

131. The Team leader, deputies or any other member of the Team need to ask permission from the secretariat of the Committee and the Commission for using ECE and FAO logos.

132. Teams are encouraged to seek assistance from other Teams of Specialists especially for cross-sectoral activities that are mentioned in their Terms of Reference.

## **F. Role of the secretariat**

133. In close cooperation with the Team leader, the secretariat is responsible for:

(a) Coordinating the nomination of Team members with member States and working with the Team leaders on invited experts, for updating of the lists of Team members and issuing meeting invitations;

(b) Conducting the elections of team leader and co-leaders;

(c) Handling official contacts on behalf of the team including correspondence with governmental and nongovernmental experts as well as experts from international organisations and agencies involved;

(d) Presenting the work of the team to external fora.

(e) Assisting in the scheduling of meetings and other activities, in consultation with the Team;

(f) Providing technical means and innovative solutions to facilitate cost-effective meetings and the possibility for remote access to meetings for members who cannot attend the meeting personally;

(g) Providing guidance in fulfilling the Terms of Reference;

(h) Facilitating meetings and assisting the leader in preparing meeting reports, by taking notes and drafting the main conclusions and next steps;

(i) Cooperating with the leader in preparing reports on the Team's accomplishments; and

(j) Uploading any relevant documentation to the Team website before and after Team meetings and disseminating information on the Team's activities.

## **Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Forests and Forest Industry subprogramme for 2023**

### **I. Objective**

73. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen the sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region.

### **II. Strategy**

74. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Forests, Housing and Land Management Division.

75. The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, analytical and normative work, international policy dialogue, capacity-building and communication. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the ECE nexus area on the sustainable use of natural resources. As part of its implementation strategy, the subprogramme will carry out its work in partnership with FAO and other relevant organizations and processes (e.g. International Union for Conservation of Nature, World Agroforestry Centre and Forest Europe).

76. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will continue to assist and promote cooperation with member States, regional entities and other partners for sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration, the sustainable use of forest products and services, and urban and peri-urban forestry. The subprogramme also plans to collect, validate and disseminate information and results of research and analysis related to sustainable forest management and the sustainable production and consumption of wood-based products. The subprogramme will further facilitate the exchange of national experiences and best practices and monitor progress on achieving sustainable forest management using key forest sector indicators, which will help member States to make progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goals 12 (responsible consumption and production) and 15 (life on land), as well as in implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (General Assembly resolution 71/285).

77. The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by providing information in presentations and panel discussions during sessions of its Committee and Working Party, publications such as the outlook study and subregional studies, and webinars on how the forest sector is and will be affected by the global pandemic and how it can contribute to building back better economies and more resilient communities.

78. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) Healthy forest ecosystems in the ECE region that are sustainably managed and provide important ecosystem goods and services to benefit society;

(b) An increased and efficient use of sustainable forest products that contribute to a green<sup>11</sup> and circular economy with increased use of renewable raw materials to replace less sustainable alternatives.

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<sup>11</sup> The Secretariat wishes to inform that the Committee of Programme and Coordination (CPC) of the General Assembly has recommended to the General Assembly to replace “green” with “sustainable” in the 2022 Proposed programme budget (A/76/16, Programme 17, para. 357). The General Assembly will decide in December 2021, upon review by the Fifth Committee.



79. The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in the enhanced ability of stakeholders to take well-informed decisions on how forests can play a key role in building back better during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

### III. Deliverables to be implemented in 2023

80. Table AIII.1 provides an outline of deliverables that are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table AII.1

#### Deliverables to be implemented in 2023

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>		
<b>Parliamentary Documentation (number of documents)</b>	<b>[16]</b>	<b>[16]</b>
1. Documentation for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	[10]	[10]
2. Documentation for the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management	[6]	[6]
<b>Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)</b>	<b>[22]</b>	<b>[22]</b>
3. Meetings of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	[6]	[8]
4. Meetings of the Bureau of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry	[2]	[2]
5. Meetings of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and of Teams of Specialists	[14]	[12]
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>		
<b>Seminars, workshops, and training events (number of days)</b>	<b>[15]</b>	<b>[12]</b>
6. Capacity-building events for policymakers, experts and relevant stakeholders from countries in the ECE region on topics related to the ECE/FAO integrated programme	[15]	[12]
<b>Publications (number of publications)</b>	<b>[7]</b>	<b>[7]</b>
7. <i>Forest Products Annual Market Review</i>	[1]	[1]
8. Publication on sustainable forest management and forest products”	[6]	[6]
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>		
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> forest policy dialogues at the request of countries and support for forest policy issues, for up to 3 member States.		
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> update and maintenance of ECE region databases on forest resources; forest policies and institutions; forest products; production, consumption and trade, including prices; and wood energy for global access.		
<b>D. Communication deliverables:</b>		
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> organizations of activities and events celebrating the International Day of Forests; brochures and information material on different forest-related topics; presentations at round tables and discussions at international forest-related events.		
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases for the subprogramme; compilation and dissemination of the Forest Information Billboard newsletter providing relevant news from the forest sector in one place to approximately 4,000 subscribers.		

## Recommendations of the European Forestry Commission

### A. Recommendations of the European Forestry Commission for the attention of the FAO Committee on Forestry (issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)

<i>Priority issues for COFO to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information/discussion/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Commission</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
The Commissions recommended to continue strengthening coordination between COFO and COAG on cross-sectoral forestry - agriculture matters	Discussion/decision	Development of policy recommendations and programme elements for the PWB	EFC	NAFC, NEFRC
Progress on the implementation of the UN Decade on Restoration	Discussion/decision	Development of policy recommendations and programme elements for the PWB	EFC	COFLAG, NAFC

### B. Recommendations of the European Forestry Commission for the attention of the Regional Conference for Europe

<i>Priority issues for the Regional Conference for Europe to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information/discussion/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for FAO</i>
Consider report of EFC41	Discussion/decision by ERC	-Develop summary of EFC report
To send a message to the Regional Conference for Europe emphasising the need to consider food security, agriculture, forestry and different aspects of rural development in an integrated manner;	Discussion/Decision	Development of policy recommendations and programme elements for the PWB
To strengthen the focus on regionally specific priorities, in particular Regional Priority “Managing natural resources sustainably and preserving biodiversity in a changing climate	Discussion/ Decision	Development of policy recommendations and programme elements for the PWB

<i>Priority issues for the Regional Conference for Europe to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information/discussion/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for FAO</i>
To continue addressing cross-sectoral matters through initiatives and land use policies aimed at halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation, and promoting restoration, as well as promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management in ways that lead to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.	Discussion/Decision	Development of policy recommendations and programme elements for the PWB

**C. RFC recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session**

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (H, M, L, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (subregional/ regional/global)</i>	<i>Global Forest Goals</i>	<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>
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**Progress in the global and regional forest resources assessment processes:**

1. Requested FAO and ECE to continue to work with Forest Europe on the joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe data collection on forests and forest management and coordinate it with the global reporting to the extent possible;

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Continued Global, Regional Goal 1- Goal 6 -

**Follow-up to the decisions of the fortieth session of the European Forestry Commission:**

FAO to continue to work on:

2. The Commission appreciated the progress made and requested FAO to continue to current work, including on forest invasive species, forest fires and definitions of forest degradation and keep member States updated about relevant developments;

Continued Regional Goal 1 -

**Presentation of forestry activities of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia:**

FAO to:

3. Strengthen the integration of land use and integrated landscape approaches in operational forestry work in the region, as well as into existing and future REU Regional Priorities, considering the multifunctional roles of forests;

Continued Regional Goal 1 -

4. Integrate poverty considerations into the design and formulation of projects, in particular large project such as GEF and GCF, applying approaches such as poverty measurement, poverty profiles, poverty mapping, and poverty-based targeting;

Continued Regional Goal 1 Goal 4 Goal 5 -

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (H, M, L, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (subregional/ regional/global)</i>	<i>Global Forest Goals</i>	<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>
5. Continue to support natural resource management including forests through the harmonization and strengthening of national policy, financing, incentives, taxation and governance frameworks and measures, including regulations, standards and monitoring for forest management interventions and practices, and support capacity development in this regard;;		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 5	-
6. Continue supporting countries and other stakeholders, including the private sector, to promote coordinated action enhancing the sustainable production and consumption of NWFP, including capacity-building related to the collection and dissemination of statistics on NWFP; and		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 6	-
7. Continue to support the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS) and its activities, in particular in organising topical trainings on emerging invasive species and collaborate with relevant organisations including Forest Europe		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 6	-
<b><u>Progress of Silva Mediterranea and the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds:</u></b> FAO to:					
8. Encourage the development of activities related to youth entrepreneurship in the bioeconomy as a way to address the challenges faced by Mediterranean forests in the context of global changes		Continued	Regional	Goal 5 Goal 6	-
<b><u>Regional cross-sectorial dialogue on forestry - agriculture matters: panel session:</u></b> FAO to:					
9. Strengthen the focus on regionally-specific priorities, in particular Regional Priority “Managing natural resources sustainably and preserving biodiversity in a changing climate”;		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 6	-
10. Continue addressing cross-sectoral matters through initiatives and land use policies aimed at halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation, and promoting restoration, as well as promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management in ways that lead to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 3 Goal 6	-
<b><u>Global processes and initiatives:</u></b> FAO to:					
11. Play an active role in advancing the United Nations Secretary-General’s Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and related activities;		Continued	All	Goal 1 - Goal 6	-
12. Explore how the related pledges from UNFCCC COP26 can be monitored;		Continued	All	Goal 1 - Goal 6	-

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (H, M, L, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (subregional/ regional/global)</i>	<i>Global Forest Goals</i>	<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>
13. Continue to take an active role as the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and through this enhance advocacy on forests through relevant global processes and initiatives;		Continued	All	Goal 1 - Goal 6	-
<b><u>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:</u></b>					
FAO to:					
14. Continue to synchronize the calendar of future EFC sessions, taking into account its joint sessions with COFFI (ECE), with the timetable of the European Regional Conference (ERC) sessions in order to provide inputs from EFC to the ERC in a timely manner;		Continued	Regional	Goal 5 Goal 6	-
15. Invite the EFC Chairperson to attend the Regional Conference and enhance inter-sessional activities by improving interactions between EFC and ERC Members, including Rome-based delegations, with a view to strengthening cross-sectoral policy dialogue and to ensure that important regional forestry matters are integrated in the themes of the Regional Conference		Continued	Global, Regional	Goal 5 Goal 6	-
16. Consider undertaking a review of the EFC with the aim to further enhance its relevance, including the focus on Agenda 2030 and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and its efficiency and effectiveness;		New	Regional	Goal 5 Goal 6	-
17. Communicate the results of the discussion on this item to the next session of COFO for its consideration.		Continued	Global, Regional	Goal 5 Goal 6	-

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