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Seventy-ninth session
Rome, 22-25 November 2021
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the joint session report

Food and Agriculture Organization European Forestry Commission

Forty-first session
Rome, 22-25 November 2021

Report of the seventy-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the forty-first session of the Food and Agriculture Organization European Forestry Commission

I. Introduction

1. The joint session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (at its seventy-ninth session) and the European Forestry Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (at its forty-first session) – Forestat2021 – was held in Rome, Italy and online from 22 to 25 November 2021. The 6th European Forest Week was celebrated in conjunction with the joint session and focused on the Future of Forests
2. The web page of this meeting¹ includes additional information, the parliamentary documents as well as presentations (whose content and conclusions are not part of this report).

II. Attendance

3. Delegations from the following thirty-eight member States participated in the joint session: Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan.
4. Representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization participated.
5. Representatives from the European Union participated as observers².

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

² The European Union is a member of the EFC.

6. Representatives of European Forest Institute and Forest Europe participated as observers.

7. The following non-governmental organizations attended as observers: African Youth in Agribusiness Organisation, Copa Cogeca - European Farmers and Agri-cooperatives, The European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), Quebec Wood Export Bureau, The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Ukrainian Research Institute of Forestry and Forest Melioration named after G.M. Vysotsky (URIFFM), Union of European Foresters (UEF).

8. A number of representatives from other organizations, the private sector, local entities, academia and the media attended as observers: Bloom Biorenewable, Center for Forest Ecology and Productivity of the Russian Academy of Sciences, CEPI - Confederation of European Paper Industries, Department of Forest Sciences, European Forest Institute (EFI) Forest Policy Research Network, European Organization of the Sawmill Industry, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, Forest Sector Insights AB, Hawthorn Advisors, Higher School of Technology and Energy (HSTE) Saint Petersburg State University of Industrial Technologies and Design (SPbSUITD), IIASA, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Kazakh Research Institute of Forestry and Agroforestry, O'Kelly Acumen, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Probos Foundation, Russ Taylor Global, Sciences Po (CSO - LIEPP), Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Southern Cross University, Spinnova Plc., Suzano, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Universidade de Vigo, University of Copenhagen, University of Helsinki, University of Hohenheim, University of Molise, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Uppsala University, Vienna (BOKU) and EFI Forest Policy Research Network, Wageningen Environmental Research, Wageningen University & Research Centre, Wageningen University and Research.

III. Opening of the meeting

9. Ms. Maria Sokolenko (Russian Federation), Committee Chair and co-Chair of the session, opened and welcomed participants to the Joint session.

10. Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of ECE, opened the session Foresta 2021 and the 6th European Forest Week on behalf of the Economic Commission for Europe. She introduced the upcoming events and highlighted the unique opportunity that discussions provide to explore key forest policy developments and the future of forests.

11. Mr. Vladimir Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General of FAO, welcomed delegates on behalf of the organization, stressing FAO's continued commitment to support the efforts aimed at achieving the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources in the region, including strengthening the links between forestry and agriculture.

12. Ms. Mette L. Wilkie, Director of the FAO Forestry Division, welcomed delegates and stressed the need for better coordination between agriculture and forestry sectors to enhance food security, given that agricultural expansion drives almost 90% of global deforestation.

13. Ms Paola Deda, Director of the ECE Forests, Land and Housing Division, thanked delegates for their support and stressed the high relevance of the joint work on forests within the framework of climate change actions and the recent COP-26 outcome which had created new momentum to keep forests on political agendas in the coming years.

IV. Adoption of the agenda

14. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda.

V. The Future of Forests

15. Ms. Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Chief of the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, highlighted the complex challenges faced by forests and stressed that many of the problems to be solved in the next decade involve forests as part of the solution. She announced the launch of the Forest Sector Outlook Study 2020-2040, which is available at <https://unece.org/forests/publications/forest-sector-outlook-study-2020-2040>. She thanked all contributing authors and institutions as well as the secretariats at ECE and FAO for the excellent work on the Study over the past several years.

16. Ms. Almut Arneth (Global land ecosystem modelling, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) delivered a keynote speech on predicted future climate conditions and their impact on the biosphere, and forests in particular. She highlighted that climate change is expected to increase risks to forests and their carbon sink capacity, noting that halting deforestation and restoring forests can provide large benefits in the climate-biodiversity nexus.

17. Mr. Mart-Jan Schelhaas (Wageningen University Environmental Research) presented on forest development and management under changing climatic and social conditions. He referenced increasing pressure on forest resources and expected impacts to forest products supply, highlighting the need for climate smart forestry based on locally adapted forest management to fulfil demands by society while adapting to climate change.

18. Mr. Kit Prins (Coordinating author, Forest Sector Outlook Study) presented the new Study including analysis of modelling scenarios for forest resources, products and trade. He highlighted that emissions from forests disturbances under climate change may be comparable to the ECE forest carbon sinks. He also noted uncertainties and trade-offs regarding the potential to increase carbon capture by substituting carbon intensive products with forest products. He emphasized that policy choices made now in one location may have consequences over long time periods and in far-distant regions, concluding that a system-wide holistic analysis was needed.

19. Mr. Janne Poranen (Spinnova Plc) and Mr. Vinicius Nonino (Suzano) presented on mechanically transforming wood into textile fibres without the need for toxic reagents. Mr. Vinicius Nonino highlighted the efforts by his company to increase carbon capture in its wood pulp business operations through multiple strategies, emphasizing sustainable textiles. Mr. Janne Poranen presented the textile technology, which significantly reduces emissions per product, and highlighted plans to go to market and scale production to make a significant impact in the textile market.

20. Mr. Remy Buser (Bloom Biorenewable) presented on transforming non-edible biomass into high-performance products to create new value from agricultural residues. He highlighted the potential of upgraded cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin to develop new composite fibres and to replace petroleum in some product areas.

21. Mr. Reza Younesi (Department of Chemistry-Ångström Laboratory, Uppsala University) presented on using lignin to make batteries more sustainable. He discussed the battery sector market outlook, including challenging raw material scarcity, then highlighted sodium-ion batteries made with lignin as a possible replacement for lithium batteries that also addresses raw material scarcity.

22. Mr. Cecil C. Konijnendijk (Nature Based Solutions Institute) presented on Urban and Peri-urban Forest Ecosystems for Green Recovery, highlighting sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry's multiple benefits. He emphasized the importance of integrated, interdisciplinary approaches based on long-term planning and monitoring, involving national and regional authorities and policy makers to strengthen governance and collaboration.

23. The Committee and the Commission

(a) Thanked the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and the many contributing experts and institutions involved for preparing the Forest Sector Outlook Study and its future-oriented, helpful findings as an important tool for further discussions and actions;

(b) Thanked the expert speakers of the Future of Forests panel, which focused on themes ranging from the effects of climate change on forests, to innovative uses of forest resources to the latest developments in urban forestry, for their excellent presentations and commended the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section for its organization;

(c) Requested the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to continue discussions in collaboration with ECE, FAO and others including Forest Europe on follow-up activities;

(d) Encouraged the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to monitor the possible impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on forest products markets and future trends.

VI. Joint Committee/Commission matters

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

24. The FAO secretariat presented progress made in the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) process, including the current status of the FAO's work on improved reporting on primary forests, as well as on the plans for the joint FAO, ECE and Forest Europe forest data collection in the pan-European region. The secretariat also updated delegations on the initial findings of the FAO global remote sensing survey.

25. The FAO secretariat clarified that the more frequent voluntary updates of key indicators required careful consideration of all linked indicators to avoid any inconsistencies in the FAO FRA database. While the technical implementation allowing these updates is progressing well, FAO intends to present and discuss this change in the next FAO FRA Expert Consultation in June 2022 to collect feedback on the procedural aspects of it. Regarding reporting on forest degradation, the FAO secretariat informed delegates that it remained problematic in the absence of an internationally agreed definition of "forest degradation". This matter, and the proposal for improved reporting on primary forest and clarification of related terms (old-growth forest, intact forest, virgin forest and others), will also be discussed during the Expert Consultation.

26. The FAO secretariat further clarified that the network of national correspondents will contribute to the collection of both FRA and pan-European datasets. The FAO role as the custodian agency of the forest related United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators 15.1.1 and 15.2.1 and the use of FRA as the tool for collecting data for these indicators, guarantees their consistency with the FRA national reports. The extent of the joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe data collection will be limited to Forest Europe signatories, no data from other countries will be used in this process unless a country explicitly supports its inclusion.

27. The Committee and the Commission:

(a) Took note of the progress made, acknowledged with gratitude the added value of the new on-line FRA platform and the work under way and provided guidance to the regional reporting work.

(b) Congratulated FAO and ECE for the progress made in joint data collection.

(c) 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.

(d) Encouraged member States to continue the collaboration with ECE, FAO and partner institutions to achieve synergies in data collection, analysis and management, and to reduce duplication of efforts and to support the implementation of the joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe data collection on forests and forest management.

(b) Global and regional forest policy matters

28. The representative of the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section presented global and regional policy matters, providing information on the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and national forest policy dialogues in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

29. The Committee and Commission took note of the work under way and requested ECE and FAO (within their existing mandates) to:

(a) Continue supporting member States in the implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda as they relate to forests, and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030;

(b) Update member States and other stakeholders on the forest-related global and regional policy developments, to contribute to the achievement of SDGs and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 implementation and review process;

(c) Continue to cooperate with relevant regional bodies and processes.

(c) Forest economics and markets

30. Mr. Glen O’Kelly (O’Kelly Acumen) presented the current situation of the roundwood markets in the ECE region. He highlighted opportunities and threats to markets and the particularly strong rebound in lumber and paper in the past year. He noted that the possible challenges for the near and medium term could be: a potential financial crisis in the housing market in China, the looming roundwood export ban in the Russian Federation, declines of roundwood availability following a temporary surge in Central Europe and a reduced availability in Canada. The speaker also indicated that sustainability initiatives and climate change may reduce allowable harvest levels and stressed that the market situation in the short and medium term may be quite positive and could lead to higher prices.

31. Mr. Russ Taylor (Russ Taylor Global) presented the current situation of the sawnwood markets in the ECE, highlighting the strong markets and record high prices in the first half of 2021. The high demand for sawn softwood in the North American market and a limited supply caused prices to rise and triggered an increase in imports. The strongly reduced supply of sawn softwood from Canada B.C. was caused by the closure of about 40 sawmills since 2005. The South of the United States in contrast was the only subregion in North America with significant potential for expansion and had already increased its capacities in sawn softwood production by about 2 million m³ in the past few years. This is expected to continue at a slightly lower pace in the coming years. The higher prices for sawn softwood trickled down to other regions. The speaker concluded by stressing that he is expecting continued strong demand in 2022 and prices to stabilize lower than in 2021 but significantly higher than historical averages.

32. The Committee and the Commission:

(a) Took note of the forest products’ trends in the region, and the sector’s contribution towards sustainable development;

(b) Thanked delegates for their statements on the latest trends in production and trade of forest products, as well as written market statements by member States available at <https://unece.org/forests/market-analyses>, which are reflected in the Market Statement of the Joint Session;

(c) Thanked the secretariat, national correspondents and the Teams of Specialists for the essential data and information collected and reflected in the publications by the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, in particular the Forest Products Annual Market Review 2020-2021;

(d) Invited member States to continue reporting in 2022 and requested the Joint ECE/FAO secretariat to allocate more time to the market discussions at the 2022 COFFI session;

(e) Approved the amended Market Statement as contained in the Annex I to this report.

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

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

33. The Chair of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economic and Management (JWP), Ms. Magdalena Wolicka-Posiadała (Poland), presented the report of the forty-second session, which was held from 22 to 24 March 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland, in hybrid format.

34. The Commission and the Committee:

(a) Took note of the recommendations by the JWP on the possible structure and number of Teams of Specialists under the new Integrated Programme of Work;

(b) Took note of the meeting dates of the Joint Working Party's forty-third session scheduled for 1-3 June 2022;

(c) Thanked the Joint Working Party for its work and invited the Working Party to continue its activities under the new Integrated Programme of Work;

(d) Endorsed the report and thanked JWP and the Teams of Specialists for their work and results achieved.

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

35. The representative of the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section presented the report on the activities implemented in 2021 under the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW) and the provisional list of outputs and publications 2022.

36. The Committee and the Commission:

(a) Expressed their support for continuing the activities under the Integrated Programme of Work, while enhancing the visibility of these activities, and suggested that the process stands to benefit from making urban forestry an important area for action;

(b) Highlighted the importance of advancing work in 2022 on preparing for the 2025 reporting cycle;

(c) Welcomed the proposal by the Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests for the organization of a boreal ministerial meeting in 2022;

(d) Endorsed the report on the 2021 activities and took note of the provisional list of 2022 outputs and publications;

(e) Congratulated the member States and their experts as well as the Joint ECE/FAO secretariat for the results achieved and requested the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to inform participants again at the 2022 session of COFFI.

(e) Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025

37. The Chair introduced the proposed new Integrated Programme of Work as well as the mandates of the Teams of Specialists and opened the floor for comments.

38. The Committee and the Commission took note of the recommendation from the independent evaluation of the UNDA 10th tranche project "Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia".

39. The Committee and the Commission:

(a) Reviewed the draft and amended several provisions. The revised draft was adopted as the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) 2022-2025 (Annex II).

(b) Adopted the relevant Terms of Reference of the subsidiary bodies and Teams of Specialists. In particular, the Committee and Commission agreed to:

(i) Establish the mandate of the following Teams of Specialists (ToS) for the period 2022-2023 and agreed to their respective Terms of References as contained in Annex II of this report;

- ToS on Boreal Forests
- ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management
- ToS on Sustainable Forest Products
- ToS on Forest Communication

(ii) Approve the merging of the ToS on Wood Energy and the ToS on Forest Products Statistics and with it the new Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics as contained in Annex II;

(iii) Suspend the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook for the duration of the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025, given the completion of the Forest Sector Outlook Study 2021. Work on dissemination of the results of the outlook study and related capacity-building activities will be continued by the Joint Section;

(iv) Discontinue the ToS on Green Jobs;

(c) Thanked all Teams of Specialists for their work and support over many years.

(f) Forest landscape restoration

40. A representative from the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section informed the Committee and the Commission about ongoing and planned activities on forest landscape restoration in the region.

41. The delegate from Uzbekistan informed the Committee and the Commission about the main findings of the meeting “Achievements – challenges – aspirations for forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia” held on 22 November 2021.

42. The Committee and the Commission:

(a) Took note of the past and current activities on forest landscape restoration as outlined by the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.

(b) Expressed gratitude to the countries participating in the 2021 Ministerial meeting on Forest landscape restoration in Eastern and South-East Europe for their pledges of over 4 million hectares to be restored by 2030. The Committee and the Commission also welcomed the adoption of the ECCA30 Ministerial Declaration and congratulated the governments of Turkey and Ukraine for pledging to restore 2.3 million hectares and 1.5 million hectares respectively.

(c) Discussed the direction and future activities in this area, particularly, in the context of the 2021-2030 United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and requested the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to continue to support member States in their work on forest landscape restoration.

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

43. A representative of the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section presented the key findings of the study “Circularity Concepts in Forest-based Industries” and the list of possible further activities for the Joint Section on the topics of forest and forest products to a circular

bioeconomy in 2022-2023. Member States considered the relevance of circular concepts as they relate to forest-based industries and stressed the importance of continuing the work in this area.

44. The Committee and the Commission:

(a) Expressed gratitude to the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on the preparation of the study and the work done so far.

(b) Invited ECE and FAO through the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to:

(i) Prepare a series of studies further reviewing the application of circular models in specific forest-based industries, and how they apply to Paris Agreement goals and SDGs, including through identification of case studies and best practice;

(ii) Take into consideration the whole forest-based value chain and bring attention to the circular nature of wood as a renewable resource and the role of sustainable forest management;

(iii) Look at existing definitions and present recommendations for adjusting them to the forest sector for consideration of member States during the next Joint Session while considering that work on a definition of a circular bioeconomy in the forest sector is premature;

(iv) Assess member States' priorities and needs in application of circular models in the forest sector, as appropriate;

(v) Provide opportunities for member States to exchange knowledge and best practice on the implementation of circularity principles in the forest sector.

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

45. Ms. Serena Fortuna (FAO) presented an overview of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (23 September 2021). She highlighted that boosting nature-positive production is one of five action tracks from the summit and that 107 Member States have shared national pathways. She also noted that a United Nations agencies Coordination Hub hosted by FAO will support national pathways and multi-stakeholder coalitions launched at the summit. The presentation emphasized the links between food systems and deforestation, noting that agriculture is the main driver globally.

46. Delegates highlighted ECE's contribution to the food systems summit which focused on food forests and food production within cities (roughly 20% of overall food production) and included the video "Forests for Food: From Food Deserts to Food Forests" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3Q2GSyBiIE>). Delegates also highlighted the work of ECE on urban forestry and the efforts to bring this important topic into the food systems summit process. They encouraged the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to continue the work on food systems linkages with forests; including on halting deforestation, highlighting synergies of forests, agricultural policies, urban/rural landscapes, and highlighting forest's role in environmental protection and ecological services.

47. The Committee and the Commission:

(a) Took note of the outcome of the 2021 Food Systems Summit and its relevance for the work of the Committee and the Commission, including elements related to work on forest landscape restoration and nature-based solutions, as outlined by the FAO secretariat.

(b) Requested the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, to continue work in this area within its mandate.

VII. Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters

48. Ms. Maria Sokolenko (Russian Federation) chaired the session.

(a) Matters arising since the last session

49. Ms. Paola Deda, Director of the ECE Division on Forest, Land and Housing Division, informed delegates of decisions adopted by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 21 April 2021 that are relevant to the new Integrated Program of Work. She outlined the high-level statement, which requests the relevant Sectoral Committees to consider how to enhance the impact of relevant existing ECE instruments, in order to foster circular and more resource efficient approaches, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance and good practices. She invited delegates to take those decisions and developments into account, in particular when planning future activities. She mentioned the lack of an international definition of “circular economy” and the current work undertaken by ECE to address this gap.

50. The Committee took note of the information provided.

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

51. The Chief of the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section presented the draft programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2022 and the recommendations on key component of the Programme of Work 2023.

52. The Committee:

(a) Endorsed the subprogramme’s draft programme of work for 2022 and recommended it to the Executive Committee for approval.

(b) Supported the focus of implementation and the interlinkages between the components of the subprogramme.

(c) Requested the inclusion of urban forestry within the strategy section of the 2023 programme of work.

(d) Amended and endorsed the Outline of key components of its programme of work 2023 and requested to include the outline and agreed recommendations in the proposed Outline of key components of the Programme of Work of the Forests and Forest Industry subprogramme for 2023 (Annex III).

(e) Requested the ECE secretariat to prepare the programme of work 2023, together with an outline for 2024, for review and endorsement at the 2022 COFFI session.

(c) Report on the Economic Commission for Europe projects

53. The ECE secretariat presented the ECE projects with funding from the United Nations Development Account, the ECE Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation funds, as well as extrabudgetary projects. The ECE secretariat also highlighted the outreach, results and impacts achieved drawing member States attention to the importance of mobilizing funds for 2022 to maintain the volume of activities implemented in 2021.

54. The secretary of COFFI reiterated that the joint ECE/FAO Section has a large portfolio of activities but very limited project funding for next year and beyond to implement activities with the limited regular budget resources. She invited member States to support the ECE secretariat in fund raising.

55. The Director of the Forest, Land and Housing Division highlighted the importance of working in synergy with FAO, noting the strong FAO presence on the ground, to deliver capacity-building to member States.

56. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the ECE’s secretariat’s reporting on ECE projects and commended it for the results and impact achieved. It thanked the ECE secretariat for the information and

requested it to continue reporting at its next session in 2022. It also encouraged countries to assist the ECE secretariat in raising funds.

(b) Affirmed the importance of the work of the joint section, including unique outputs that are not provided by any other organizations. The Committee recognized that prioritization of activities may be required if sufficient funds are not mobilized.

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

57. The Committee took note of the ECE secretariat’s participation in the International Women’s Day event hosted by the Women’s Forest Congress on 8 March 2021 and encouraged delegations and the ECE secretariat to continue work in this area.

(e) Election of officers

58. The following were elected to hold office until the end of the eightieth session: Ms. Maria Sokolenko (Russian Federation) as Chair; and Ms. Marta Gaworska (Poland), Ms. Maureen Whelan (Canada), and Mr. Peter Blombäck (Sweden) as Vice-Chairs.

59. The meeting warmly thanked outgoing Vice-Chair Guy Robertson (United States) for his excellent service over many years including his valuable contribution to COFFI and its Bureau, his support to the cooperation with EFC and his friendly assistance.

(f) Date and place of next meeting

60. The Chair informed the delegates that, provided conference services are available, the week of 7 to 11 November 2022 has been provisionally reserved for the eightieth session of the Committee, to take place in Geneva, Switzerland.

(g) Any other business

61. Ms. Paola Deda, Director of the ECE Forests Land and Housing Division, recalled for delegates the ECE procedure for taking decisions in formal meetings with remote participation, including the 72-hour silent procedure necessary for decisions to be considered adopted. She took the opportunity to reiterate ECE’s commitment to the joint work of ECE and FAO, as well as cooperation with partners such as Forest Europe. Effective cooperation is crucial if the organizations are to deliver effectively on forest matters, a topic high on the international agenda.

VIII. FAO European Forestry Commission matters (Agenda item 5)

62. Ms. Christine Farcy (Belgium) chaired the session.

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

63. The FAO secretariat provided a brief presentation on actions undertaken in response to the requests made by the Commission during its fortieth session.

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

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

65. Mr. Nobert Winkler-Ráthonyi, Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, and Mr. Peter Pechacek, Forestry Officer, FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia and Caucasus, presented activities of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in 2020 and 2021.

66. Delegates welcomed the presentations and relevant background information and appreciated FAO's work in the region.

67. The Commission encouraged Members to:

(a) Incorporate more effectively land use and integrated landscape approaches among relevant agencies responsible for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and livestock management, into relevant national planning processes, and enhance intersectoral collaboration at the landscape level;

(b) Integrate poverty considerations and conduct poverty analysis when designing projects, taking advantage of entry points to address poverty, and ensure programmes are inclusive and "leave no one behind", a guiding principle of the SDGs;

(c) Promote the sustainable production and consumption of Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP) by i) securing the conservation and sustainable supply of NWFP; ii) building competitive, equitable and sustainable value chains; iii) improving transparency, data and information flow on NWFP and iv) establishing enabling conditions in policy, financial and innovation terms;

(d) Provide financial and/or in-kind contributions to support the FAO regional forestry programmes, including on phytosanitary standards in forestry in the region, and FAO project work, and to provide complementary funding for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) projects.

68. The Commission recommended FAO to:

(a) Strengthen the integration of land use and integrated landscape approaches in operational forestry work in the region, as well as into existing and future Regional Priorities of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU), considering the multifunctional roles of forests;

(b) 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;

(c) Continue to support natural resource management including forests through the harmonization and strengthening of national policies, 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;

(d) 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

(e) Continue to support the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS) and its activities, in particular in organizing topical trainings on emerging invasive species and collaborate with relevant organisations, including Forest Europe.

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

69. Ms. Amy Duchelle, FAO Senior Forestry Officer, presented an overview of the activities conducted under the auspices of *Silva Mediterranea*.

70. The Commission welcomed the activities and recommended that FAO 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.

71. The Commission invited countries to contribute to the preparation and encouraged high-level participation in the 7th Mediterranean Forest Week to be held in 2022 in Antalya, Turkey.

72. Ms. Amy Duchelle also presented the activities of the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds, including its most recent initiative on the protective functions of forests in a changing climate.

73. The Commission welcomed activities of the Working Party and recommended to Members to:

(a) Strengthen further their commitment to the Working Party, including through designating a focal point to serve on the Working Party;

(b) Provide continued guidance for the Working Party, in particular in terms of priority topics to be addressed by the group;

(c) Publicize the work of the Working Party and make full use of its services, for example through the submission of news items and announcements to be posted on the website of the Working Party.

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

74. The panel was moderated by Mr. Keith Anderson, Forest and Climate Policy Advisor, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland. The panel discussed the multiple dimensions of cross-sectorial integration of forestry and of agri-food systems.

75. Ms. Mette Wilkie, Director, FAO Forestry Division, presented the background document (ECE/TIM/2021/13; FO: EFC/2021/13) highlighting linkages between the world's forests and its agri-food systems and FAO's efforts to reflect this in a closer collaboration between its Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and its Committee on Forestry (COFO). She highlighted, that solutions to managing trade-offs and synergies require integrating policies and landscape approaches; strengthening governance and legality; greening agri-food systems; and science-based decision making.

76. Mr. Nabil Gangi, Deputy Regional Representative, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, presented FAO's efforts in strengthening its cross-sectoral work through activities aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management with a focus on regional activities in Europe.

77. Mr. Teemu Seppä, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, presented the legislative proposals by the European Commission proposing new rules to curb European Union-driven deforestation and the European Union Forest Strategy for 2030, which is a flagship initiative of the European Green Deal.

78. Mr. Abduvokhid Zakhadullaev, Head of Department for International Relations and Ecotourism Development, State Forestry Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, presented the benefits of restoration and afforestation activities in Uzbekistan for the agricultural sector and state priorities such as certification standards for tree planting, production and processing of food crops and medicinal plants, and the increase of pistachios and almonds plantations.

79. Ms. Natalia Vysotska, Deputy Director for Science, Ukrainian Research Institute of Forestry and Forest Melioration, presented the opportunities for Ukraine to move to sustainable practices in agri-food systems.

80. Ms. Oana Neagu, Director of the General Affairs, Copa Cogeca, highlighted the need to develop a more integrated agricultural and forestry sector that benefits everyone and ensures food security for more than 500 million people throughout Europe. Decision makers need to take an integrated approach to land management. In this regard, she highlighted carbon farming, bioeconomy, ecosystem service approaches and the promotion of women entrepreneurship.

81. The panel:

(a) Highlighted the need to move to sustainable agri-food systems that improve food security and nutrition.

(b) Recognized the importance of sharing country experiences and good practices in fostering multisectoral dialogue to foster synergies and manage trade-offs between forests and agriculture.

(c) Emphasized the need to consider food security, agriculture, forestry and other aspects of rural development in an integrated manner.

82. The Commission thanked the secretariat and the contributing speakers for their presentations and stressed the importance to continue the work on cross-sectoral forest and agricultural matters.

83. The Commission invited member States to consider, as appropriate to their circumstances, what further actions they could take to:

(a) Promote efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems to synergize with sustainable forest management; and

(b) Promote measures to minimize deforestation associated with agricultural commodities.

84. The Commission invited FAO to:

(a) 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;

(b) Strengthen the focus on regionally specific priorities, in particular the regional priority “Managing natural resources sustainably and preserving biodiversity in a changing climate”;

(c) 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.

(e) Global processes and initiatives

85. Ms. Mette Wilkie, Director, FAO Forestry Division, provided an update on global initiatives and processes, including the forest-related outcomes of the 16th session on the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF16), the United Nations Food Systems Summit, the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP26), the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15) and the launch of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The FAO flagship publication “State of the World’s Forests” will be launched in 2022 tentatively entitled “Forests and Green Recovery - Building Inclusive and Sustainable Green Economies”.

86. The Commission:

(a) Considered forest-relevant updates on international events and processes as contained in this document to facilitate policy dialogues and technical exchanges, and to assist in achieving members' goals and contributions to international processes and goals;

(b) Welcomed the topical focus of FAO's flagship publication "The State of the World's Forests 2022", tentatively entitled "Forestry and Green Recovery, Building Inclusive and Sustainable Green Economies";

(c) Welcomed FAO's efforts in mainstreaming forest-related issues into the preparations of the United Nations Food Systems Summit and its Pre-Summit;

(d) Welcomed the developments under the United Nations Secretary-General's initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation;

(e) Welcomed the forest-related outcomes of the UNFCCC COP26;

(f) Welcomed the themes of the International Day of Forests 2022 and 2023 and agreed to consider them in the preparations of celebratory events in the region.

87. The Commission requested FAO to:

(a) Play an active role in advancing the United Nations Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and related activities;

(b) Explore how the related pledges from UNFCCC COP26 can be monitored;

(c) 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.

(f) Preparations for the thirty-third Regional Conference for Europe, twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Forestry and the fifteenth World Forestry Congress

88. Ms. Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs, COFO Secretary, Mr. Nabil Gangi, Secretary of FAO Regional Conference for Europe (EFC), and Mr. Peter Csoka, Associate Secretary-General / XV World Forestry Congress Secretary, presented preparations for the thirty-third session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (RCE 33), the twenty-sixth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 26) in 2022, and for the FAO forestry programme as well as preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress (2-6 May 2022, Republic of Korea).

89. The Commission provided, as contained in Annex IV, recommendations to COFO EFC recommendations for the attention of COFO to ERC; EFC recommendations for the attention of the ERC; and EFC recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session.

90. The Commission welcomed the preparation for the Congress, and stressed the need to bring its outcomes to FAO governing bodies for possible follow-up, if decided by FAO governing bodies; invited countries to support the XV World Forestry Congress by encouraging and facilitating good attendance; and encouraged countries in a position to do so to provide financial support to the Congress to enable balanced participation.

91. The Commission requested FAO to:

a) 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;

b) 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;

c) 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;

d) Communicate the results of the discussion on this item to the next session of COFO, for its consideration.

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

92. In accordance with its Rules of Procedure and established practice, the Commission, elected by acclamation Ms. Liubov Poliakova (Ukraine) as Chair, and Mr. Keith Anderson (Switzerland), Mr. Teemu Seppä (Finland), and Mr. Abduvokhid Zakhadullaev (Uzbekistan) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of forty-second session.

93. The Commission warmly thanked Ms. Christine Farcy (Belgium), outgoing Chair, for her excellent service as Chair of the Commission and as Vice-Chair of the FAO Committee on Forestry. The Commission also thanked Mr. Rob Busink (Netherlands) and Mr. Kenan Kilic (Turkey), outgoing Vice-Chairs, for their excellent services.

(h) Other business.

94. There was no other business discussed.

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

95. The Committee and the Commission adopted the present report in session.

96. The co-Chairs of the session thanked delegates for their input to the report. The secretariat informed the participants that the final edited report would be issued soon.

97. The joint session was closed on Thursday, 25 November 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

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%.³
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.

³ 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
Industrial roundwood									
Europe	m ³	410,172	409,358	440,141	431,209	420,245	-10,964	-2.5	2.5
EECCA	m ³	194,721	198,419	226,336	213,290	211,911	-1,379	-0.6	8.8
North America	m ³	516,384	513,350	534,285	517,736	491,767	-25,969	-5.0	-4.8
ECE region	m ³	1,121,277	1,121,127	1,200,762	1,162,236	1,123,923	-38,312	-3.3	0.2
Sawnwood									
Europe	m ³	107,552	110,809	113,159	110,628	109,523	-1,105	-1.0	1.8
EECCA	m ³	16,689	17,792	16,746	17,933	16,777	-1,156	-6.4	0.5
North America	m ³	117,570	118,392	120,097	117,076	114,726	-2,350	-2.0	-2.4
ECE region	m ³	241,811	246,992	250,001	245,637	241,026	-4,611	-1.9	-0.3
Wood-based panels									
Europe	m ³	71,704	74,210	75,854	74,961	71,528	-3,432	-4.6	-0.2
EECCA	m ³	16,687	18,351	21,204	19,364	18,204	-1,160	-6.0	9.1
North America	m ³	54,270	56,603	54,771	55,249	53,421	-1,827	-3.3	-1.6
ECE region	m ³	142,662	149,165	151,829	149,573	143,154	-6,420	-4.3	0.3
Paper and paperboard									
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; m³: 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.

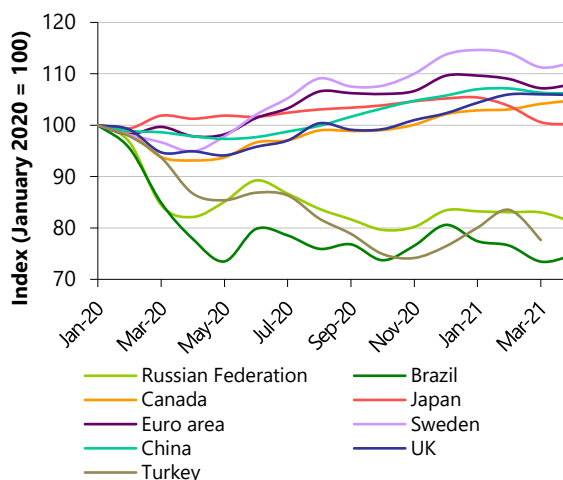
10. Policy support, both fiscal and monetary, has been substantial across the region, albeit with significant differences. In the United States, initial assistance, which included direct payments to families and loans to small business, led to an increasingly expansive fiscal policy stance. New initiatives 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 CO₂ 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 m³, 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 m³. Non-coniferous industrial roundwood consumption decreased by 10% year-over-year to 229 million m³, the lowest level since 2009. The reduction in the usage of coniferous industrial roundwood was more modest, down only 1.3% to 895 million m³.

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 m³ and continues at a high level of 42.7 million m³ in 2021. Total exports reached 93 million m³ 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 m³. 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 m³ 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 m³ 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 m³ 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 m³ in 2020, the lowest level in six years, while Canadian removals were 130 million m³, 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 m³. 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 m³ in 2020, and average export prices per m³ increased slightly by 0.8%. Sawnwood capacities are being increased for the near-term future.

37. The EECCA subregion produced 47.3 million m³ of sawn softwood in 2020 (-5.0% over 2019). EECCA sawn softwood exports declined to 36.8 million m³ in 2020 (-4.4%).
38. North American sawn softwood output was 101.6 million m³ in 2020 (0.8% over 2019). Exports dropped significantly (-5.2%) to 28.2 million m³, with the United States recording a drop of 15.2% (-350,000 m³) while Canada was lower by 4.3% (-1.2 million m³). North America imports increased to 26.3 million m³ (4.3%). The sawn softwood production capacities in the United States have been increasing by about 2 million m³ 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 m³, with consumption declining to 13.6 million m³. In the EECCA, sawn hardwood production decreased by 15.9%, to 3.6 million m³, and consumption to 1.7 million m³. North American sawn hardwood consumption decreased in 2020 to 15.0 million m³, and production fell to 17.7 million m³ (-24.7%).
42. China continued to dominate imports of temperate and tropical sawnwood in 2020, with a total volume of 33.9 million m³ (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 panels⁴

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 m³. Production decreased by 3.1% in 2020, to 23.5 million m³. 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

⁴ 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 m³) in the region in 2020, to 246 million m³. 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 m³ 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 m³) 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 m³ in Scandinavia are expected to nearly double to reach 462,000 m³ 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 m³, 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 m³ 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.

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 membership⁵. Forty member States, which are all ECE member States, and the European Union, are members of the Commission⁶.
5. The Programme encompasses the following main topics related to forests, sustainable forest management and the forest sector:

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

- (a) The state of forests and sustainable forest management;
- (b) The role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- (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 2017-2030,⁷ 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.

⁷ 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

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).

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.⁸

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

⁸ 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

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:	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.
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

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)⁹

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.

⁹ 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

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 or 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

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 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:	Networking, meetings, workshops, advice on forest communication related issues, including for awareness campaigns.
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.

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 Activities¹⁰;
- (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:

¹⁰ 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) and/or FAO (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

1. 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

2. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Forests, Housing and Land Management Division.
3. 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).
4. 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).
5. 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.
6. 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 green¹¹ and circular economy with increased use of renewable raw materials to replace less sustainable alternatives.

¹¹ 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.

7. 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

8. 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>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies		
Parliamentary Documentation (number of documents)	[16]	[16]
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]
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	[22]	[22]
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. Generation and transfer of knowledge		
Seminars, workshops, and training events (number of days)	[15]	[12]
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]
Publications (number of publications)	[7]	[7]
7. <i>Forest Products Annual Market Review</i>	[1]	[1]
8. Publication on sustainable forest management and forest products”	[6]	[6]
C. Substantive deliverables		
Consultation, advice and advocacy: forest policy dialogues at the request of countries and support for forest policy issues, for up to 3 member States.		
Databases and substantive digital materials: 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.		
D. Communication deliverables:		
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: 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.		
External and media relations: 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>
<u>Progress in the global and regional forest resources assessment processes:</u>					
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;		Continued	Global, Regional	Goal 1- Goal 6	-
<u>Follow-up to the decisions of the fortieth session of the European Forestry Commission:</u>					
FAO to continue to work on:					
2. The Commission appreciated the progress made and requested FAO to continue to its 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	-
<u>Presentation of forestry activities of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia:</u>					
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	-
<u>Progress of Silva Mediterranea and the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds:</u> 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	-
<u>Regional cross-sectorial dialogue on forestry - agriculture matters: panel session:</u> 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-sectorial 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	-
<u>Global processes and initiatives:</u> 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	-
<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>					
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	-