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منظمة  
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# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

## Thirty-first Session

**Voronezh, Russian Federation, 16-18 May 2018**

**Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the Joint Session of the 39th European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 75th UNECE Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry**

## Executive Summary

The FAO Council at its 151st session in March 2015, as well as the FAO Conference at its Thirty-ninth session in June 2015, in reviewing the document “Assessment of FAO Governance Reforms” (C2015/26 Rev.1) endorsed the suggestion that “*the priorities identified by the regional technical commissions on forests and fisheries could be included as an integral part of the reports of Regional Conferences to the Council as regards priorities for the work of the Organization in each region.*”

The Thirty-ninth Session of the European Forestry Commission (EFC) was held jointly with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in Warsaw, Poland, from 9 to 13 October 2017.

This Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) paper provides a secretarial summary of EFC-related matters. The full report from the joint session is available on the UNECE Website: [www.unece.org/index.php?id=44709](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44709).

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## **Guidance sought from the Regional Conference**

The Regional Conference may wish to:

- review the summary report and endorse the recommendations;
- request EFC to identify and discuss priorities of work for the region in its future sessions and issues to be brought to the attention of future sessions of ERC.

### **I. Background**

1. The Thirty-ninth Session of EFC was held jointly with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the fourth European Forest Week in Warsaw, Poland, from 9 to 13 October 2017.

2. More than 280 participants from 42 countries (33 EFC member countries plus the European Union); two intergovernmental organizations; one intergovernmental process; 28 non-governmental organizations; and members of the private sector, local entities, academia, and the media were in attendance.

3. The joint session discussed and assessed policy and technical issues relevant to forestry in the region, in particular global and regional policy developments and regional implications, Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020, forest products and services, markets and investments, adoption of the Integrated Programme of Work 2018–21 of COFFI and EFC, FAO activities in the region, strengthening FAO's work on boreal and temperate forests, recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security's High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, a new strategic document for FAO in forestry, and FAO governance matters.

### **II. Summary Report**

#### **A. EFC and COFFI Joint Matters**

##### *Global and regional policy context*

4. The commission and the committee requested FAO and UNECE, within their mandates, to:

- continue to support country implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda as they relate to forests, and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 in cooperation with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (para 17a);
- update member countries and other stakeholders on the forest-related global and regional policy developments and contribute to the achievement of SDGs and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 implementation and review process (para 17b); and
- continue forest monitoring and outlook work in the region.

*Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020, enhanced and streamlined international reporting*

5. The commission requested that FAO:
- continue supporting the development of the global core set concept and contribute to the collection of data for those indicators that are relevant for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (para 27a); and
  - continue the development and implementation of the new Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 online platform to allow voluntary, event-based submissions, reviews, and annual reporting on SDG indicators 15.1.1 and 15.2.1 (para 27b).
6. The commission and the committee requested FAO and UNECE to continue to work together with Forest Europe to implement UNECE/FAO/Forest Europe joint data collection on forests and sustainable forest management in the region and coordinate it with the global reporting to the extent possible in a cost-effective manner (para 28).

*EFC/COFFI integrated programme of work 2018-2021*

7. The commission and the committee reviewed and adopted the Integrated Programme of Work of EFC/COFFI for 2018–2021. Participants decided to name the Integrated Programme of Work “Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work” to honour the host country (para 33).

**B. EFC Matters**

8. The commission requested FAO to:
- Prepare a background document for regional activities for the next session of the commission, including the creation of an online information platform on project activities (para 66a); promote broader participation of various stakeholders, in particular the forestry sector, in the FAO regional programming process (para 66b); and support countries in developing strategies and measures aimed at the prevention and control of transboundary forest pests and diseases, thus increasing the vitality of forests in the context of climate change (para 66c);
  - Continue supporting the establishment and functioning of the platform of the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia and the implementation of its activities (para 69a); facilitate the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia in linking up and cooperating with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre European Alien Species Information Network and other European initiatives (para 69b); and engage in crosscutting and interdepartmental work, in particular through the relevant major areas of work and/or regional initiatives of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, defined under the FAO Strategic Framework (para 69c);
  - Support country efforts in the region to plan and implement activities related to the restoration of forests and other degraded lands, in particular through activities of the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (para 72a); assist countries in developing consistent definitions for “degraded forest” in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Targets (para 72b); seek further cooperation with regional partners to promote the restoration of degraded lands, in particular through direct involvement in global partnerships and initiatives, including the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration, the International Model Forest Network, and the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative, as well as with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (para 72c); and pursue active engagement with multilateral, bilateral, and private sector resource partners, including the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, and multilateral and

regional development banks, to enable FAO to increase its support to member countries and regional economic integration organizations in forest and landscape restoration activities (para 72e);

- Continue (i) building up its operational and information support to member countries in Europe and Central Asia concerning both boreal and temperate forests; (ii) considering a more active cooperation with the existing mechanisms instead of creating any additional platform; and (iii) encouraging these mechanisms to seek a stronger involvement from FAO and UNECE as appropriate (para 82);
- Strengthen the integration of specific forestry programmes (including the Forest and Farm Facility, Forest and Land Restoration, Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and work on agroforestry and urban forestry) and other operational forestry work into the Regional Initiatives of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, taking into account the multifunctional roles of forests (para 86a); support countries in enhancing the contributions of forests and trees to food security and nutrition, in particular in countries most in need in the region; support and promote the role of women in forestry and food security (paragraph 86b); identify, document, and disseminate best practices regarding food security and nutrition mainstreaming in forestry; and develop guidelines for mainstreaming food security and nutrition objectives in the policies of the forest sector and other related sectors as well as in forest management policy and practices (para 86c).
- Assist countries in strengthening their capacity to monitor forest-related SDG indicators and in strengthening the wider contributions of forests to the SDGs (para 98a); continue contributing to the Global Climate Action Agenda and to promote forest related initiatives, projects and programmes at COP23 as well as support countries in the development of their forest and other land use related proposals for the Green Climate Fund (para 98b); inform the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) on plans and progress made in establishing the platform on mainstreaming biodiversity, as well as on FAO's work in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity (para 98c); support the appropriate inclusion of the role of forests in the Convention on Biological Diversity strategies beyond 2020 (para 98d); explore ways and means to help further enhance the forest sector's contribution to the mainstreaming of biodiversity (para 98e); support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) including through analytical work, such as the State of the World's Forests and the Global Forest Resources Assessment; and assist countries, at their request, in developing voluntary national contributions (para 98f) ; and strengthen its leadership in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and work towards strengthening support to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 including through presenting the Collaborative Partnership on Forests workplan and the recommendation for a global core set of forest-related indicators to UNFF13 and to COFO in 2018 (para 98g).

9. The commission made recommendations to the ERC as contained in Annex Ia of this document (para 106) and for the agenda of COFO as contained in Annex Ib of this document(para 105).

10. The next session of the commission was scheduled as a joint session with UNECE/COFFI, to take place in the Russian Federation in 2019 (para 110).

## Annex I

## European Forestry Commission recommendations

## a) EFC recommendations for the attention of the ERC

<i>Priority issues for the RC to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information/discussion/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for FAO</i>
Report on the 39th session of the EFC	information/discussion	Based on endorsement by the ERC, FAO to incorporate regional priorities in Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) ( <i>N.B. parallel track to COFO</i> )

## b) EFC recommendations for the attention of COFO (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>
Forests' contribution to the SDGs	discussion/decision	Guidance for members and FAO
Strengthening contribution to the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)	discussion/decision	Guidance for COFO and FAO for enhanced collaboration and contribution
Forest and climate change after United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP21	discussion/decision	Guidance for COFO and FAO for follow-up action
Forest fires	discussion/decision	Guidance for FAO to enhance its work on forest fires
Forest information	discussion/decision	Guidance for FAO on shaping its programme related to forest information collection, analysis, and dissemination, including, <i>inter alia</i> , Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), and Criteria and Indicators (C&I)
Youth and education	discussion/decision	Guidance for members and FAO to mainstream youth into forest policies and strengthen forest education
Consideration of the revision of the Forestry Strategy	discussion/decision	Guidance for FAO to strengthen the contribution of forests and forestry to sustainable development