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**Meeting with the Chair of the Committee on Forests
and the Forest Industry**

Report by the Chair

Report by the Chair of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

1. The Chair of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, Mr. Guy Robertson (United States) is pleased to submit his report to the 108th meeting of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) on 16 December 2019.

I. Introduction

2. This report describes key achievements since the last report to EXCOM on 1 February 2019, covering the reporting period from 1 February to 1 December 2019. In addition, this report will highlight themes and trends that will shape future activities. More information is contained in the report of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry on its seventy-seventh session, which was held from 4 to 7 November 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland, and is contained in document ECE/TIM/2019/2-FO:EFC/2019/2.

II. Achievements since the last session

3. During the reporting period, the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section (hereafter Joint Section) continued to work on the forest sector and highlighted the importance of the circularity of the sector through its work on forest products and markets. In addition, the Joint Section provided data on forests, forest management and the forest industry, in support of evidence-based decision-making, and provided assistance to member States for improving the forest sector in the region through coordinated activities of communication and capacity-building. Key highlights and their impacts (reported according to the Work Areas (WA) of the WIPoW) include:

A. WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment:

4. The Joint Section coordinated, organized and supported data collection on forest resources, forest products markets and wood energy in the UNECE region.

1. Highlighted outputs

- The “*Forest Products Annual Market Review 2018-2019*”, which was published in the autumn of 2019, provides a comprehensive analysis of market developments relevant to member States.
- Criteria and indicators constitute an increasingly common policy tool to implement sustainable forest management (SFM) and to define clear priorities and targets. The “*Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set for Sustainable Forest Management*” provide specific concepts, definitions, tools and reference materials to guide the development process of national criteria and indicator sets to monitor SFM. The Guidelines, which were published in English and Russian, are targeted for application in Caucasus and Central Asia.
- The first regional overview of the forest sector in Caucasus and Central Asia since the states became independent in the 1990s, the “*State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia*” was published in English, the Russian version will follow.
- To identify the key drivers of forest degradation and the potential for forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia, the study “*Forest*

Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia”, was published in English and Russian.

- The “*Study on forest ownership in the ECE region*” was published in collaboration with the European Cooperation in Science and Technology Action Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe (COST Action FACESMAP). The first of its kind, the study provides an assessment of changing patterns for both public and private ownership. A thematic, inter-active database based on this work is accessible through the UNECE on-line statistical database in English and Russian. (<https://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en>).

2. Impact

Results for 2019 entailed improved monitoring and assessment of the forest sector to support sustainable forest management, as evidenced by an increased percentage of UNECE member States able to provide satisfactory data on qualitative and quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management. As a result, the subprogramme contributed to the achievement of Global Forest Goal 1 of the UNSPF and SDG 15.

B. WA2: Policy advice and dialogue:

1. Highlighted outputs

- The Joint Section organized a **National Forest Policy Dialogue** in Azerbaijan on 21 February 2019. This process resulted in the presentation of a new National Forestry Programme, including an Action Plan for the period 2020 to 2030 (presented on 14 June 2019 in Baku).
- The Joint Section published a set of tools for policymaking, including the ECE/FAO/Forest Europe “*Guidelines on the Promotion of Green Jobs in Forestry*”; and the “*Guidelines for the development of a Criteria and Indicators Set for Sustainable Forest Management*”.
- The “*Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy: Mid-term Review*” was published providing a review of actions that have been implemented.

2. Impact

The National Forest Policy Dialogue in Azerbaijan led to the development of a new National Forestry Programme for the country, which provides a sound legal basis for forest management and ensures the development of institutional capacities.

C. WA3: Communications and outreach:

1. Highlighted outputs

- The **International Day of Forests (IDF)** was celebrated on 21 March 2019 under the theme “Forests and Education” with several events. A Forest Breakfast and handicraft workshops were organized with the support of State Forests, Poland. An exhibition on innovative wood and cellulose products was organized in a paper cave with the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI). Under the auspices of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development a side event “Forest Quiz Time!” was organized in cooperation with the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC). The Joint Section also

contributed a speaker on forest education and pedagogy to a Roundtable event entitled “The Power of Knowledge for Change”.

- The **Forests for Fashion** initiative was presented at the Sustainable Innovations Expo of the 4th UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, from 10 to 15 March 2019 and at the Climate Summit in New York on 21 September 2019 in order to promote the value of sustainably produced wood products as environmentally friendly materials for textiles and related fashion applications.
- The **Trees and Cities Challenge** was launched as a global campaign by the UNECE Executive Secretary during the Climate Action Summit in New York on 21 September 2019. It is a voluntary initiative aimed at mayors and corresponding urban authorities in cities across the world to locally take action to combat climate change and foster urban sustainability and resilience.
- The **5th European Forest Week** was celebrated from 4 to 8 November 2019 in conjunction with Forêt2019, the Joint Session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission. Activities included an exhibition on “Forests and the Circular Economy: a future without plastics” in collaboration with the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), and Uusii puu – the New Wood Project, a network of Finnish organizations aimed at promoting a wood-based bioeconomy. In addition, a range of side events on the topic of Forests and the Circular Economy took place in the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

2. Impact

- Under the Trees in Cities Challenge, mayors have already committed to planting more than half a million trees in different cities, including Bonn, Helsingborg, Tirana, Bacarena and Victoria.
- The Forests for Fashion Initiative and the International Day of Forests resulted in increased visibility and strengthened public support for the value of sustainably produced wood and wood-based products.

D. WA4: Capacity-building:

5. The Joint Section’s work on capacity-building aims to enhance the ability of specific countries and the UNECE region as a whole to implement sustainable forests management practices, collect relevant data, monitor and analyze forest conditions as well as promote the engagement of national experts from the region. In this regard, outputs included:

1. Highlighted outputs

- The **Forest Congress for the Caucasus and Central Asia** was held 28-30 May 2019 in Kyrgyzstan as a regional workshop under the UNECE/FAO, UNDA project “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”. One day of the Congress was dedicated to forest landscape restoration and organized as a follow-up to the Astana Ministerial Roundtable (2018).
- Forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia are facing immense pressures due to human activities. In order to bridge the knowledge gap on the state of forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia, a series of publications were released in English and Russian, providing concrete tools for policymaking in the region (see WA1).

- The Joint Section, in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Bank have launched a bold **call to action to bring 30 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2030** in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in support of the Bonn Challenge. This **ECCA30 initiative** was presented during the Climate Summit in New York.
- In 2019, UNECE became a member organization of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration. This will strengthen the work on this topic and enable networking with other stakeholders in the field.

2. Impact

Commitments under the Bonn Challenge increased to 3 million ha in the Caucasus and Central Asia, following the announcement of Azerbaijan at the Forest Congress to reforest 170,000 ha of degraded land by 2030, and an additional 100,000 ha conditional upon additional funding.

III. Major activities planned for 2020 and beyond

6. The Committee adopted the Programme of Work of the Forests and Forest Industry subprogramme for 2020, as contained in document ECE/TIM/2019/12-FO/EFC/2019/12.

7. Further, the Committee endorsed the Activities for 2020 as contained in Annex III of document ECE/TIM/2019/2-FO:EFC/2019/2 as well as the proposed publications planned for 2020 and 2021 as contained in Annex IV. EXCOM is invited to approve this decision, as well as the Committee's Programme of Work.

8. The following planned activities highlight key themes that address some of the major challenges facing the forestry sector.

A. WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment:

9. The Joint Section will strengthen data collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services by **producing a website on forest and forest sector data in the UNECE region**.

10. Focused analysis will be devoted to the **impacts of biotic and abiotic disturbances** on forests and markets for forest products.

11. A new study on wood energy will provide the latest statistical data in support of an **analysis supply and demand for wood energy**.

B. WA2: Policy advice and dialogue:

12. The Joint Section will facilitate a **National Forest Policy Dialogue** in Kazakhstan, which will focus on the development of a strategic document for the forest sector at national scale.

13. The **Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region** will be published, providing a comprehensive policy outlook for the forest sector, including trends and challenges up to the year 2050.

14. As boreal forests globally face increasing challenges due to climate change and human impacts, the Joint Section will service a new **Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests**. The new team will contribute to and streamline science and policy cooperation on boreal forests, increase collaboration with the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) and other boreal-related research organizations, improve awareness of the boreal forests' global role in issues such as climate change and the bioeconomy, and advise the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on boreal forest matters.

C. **WA3: Communications and outreach:**

1. Communications activities will be focused on **promoting the potential of sustainable wood products in the circular bioeconomy** across sectors through the organization of events and exhibitions.

2. In addition, the **Trees in Cities Challenge** will showcase cities' progress on their tree-planting pledges on a dedicated website and through international fora, encouraging other urban leaders around the world to take concrete local action through the initiative. The campaign will initially run until the end of 2020.

3. The **International Day of Forests** will be celebrated under the theme "Forests and Biodiversity" on 23 March 2020, back to back with the 42nd session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forests Statistics, Economics and Management.

D. **WA4: Capacity-building:**

4. The United Nations General Assembly declared 2021–2030 the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, aiming to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight the climate crisis and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity. The Joint Section will support the effort through:

- **Technical workshops** on forest landscape restoration and afforestation, and the organization of a **Ministerial Meeting on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge for Eastern and South-East Europe**;
- **Supporting countries under the ECCA30 initiative** by providing a platform for policy dialogue and advice, and by delivering capacity building related to forest landscape restoration, data improvement, and forest resource assessment.

5. The Joint Section will start the **Strategic Review process** to assess the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work taking into consideration the results of its implementation and past experience; and with the aim of developing a proposal for the IPoW for 2022-2025.

IV. **Any proposed change to the subsidiary structure of the Committee**

6. The Committee decided to:

- a) Establish a new Team of Specialists (ToS) on Boreal Forests and endorsed its Terms of reference as contained in document ECE/TIM/2019/2-FO/EFC/2019;
- b) Approve the merging of the ToS on Forest Policy with the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook and agreed to the revised Terms of Reference of the

ToS on Forest Sector Outlook as contained in Annex II of ECE/TIM/2019/2-FO:EFC/2019/2.

c) Approve the renewal of mandate for the period 2020-2021 of the following Teams of Specialists (as contained in Annex I: Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work in the document ECE/TIM/2017/2-FO:EFC/2017/2):

- ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management (SFM);
- ToS on Sustainable Forest Products;
- ToS on Forest Products Statistics;
- ToS on Wood Energy;
- ToS on Forest Communication - Forest Communicators' Network;
- ToS on Green Jobs - Joint ILO/ECE/FAO Expert Network.

7. The Executive Committee is invited to adopt the above decisions.
8. The Committee also approved the revised COFFI Rules of Procedure as contained in Annex VI of ECE/TIM/2019/2-FO:EFC/2019/2.

V. Inter-sectoral activities: new activities and/or progress in existing inter-sectoral activities

9. The Joint Section continued intersectoral cooperation with other UNECE and FAO units as well as external organizations and processes. For instance:

10. Through the UNECE Nexus Team on 'Sustainable use of natural resources', the Joint Section contributes to strengthen synergies within the organization and thereby scale up efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. The Joint Section together with the Liaison Unit Bratislava of Forest Europe finalized the "Guidelines on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector".

12. The study "State of Forest Ownership in the UNECE Region" is a joint effort by the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, the European Cooperation in Science and Technology Action Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe (COST Action FACESMAP), the European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR), European Forest Owners (CEPF) and European Federation of Forest-Owning Communities (FECOF), and will benefit greatly from a vast network for dissemination.

13. The Joint Section cooperates with IUCN, WRI and the World Bank (WB) on the topic of forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge and ECCA30.

VI. Technical cooperation activities

5. An exhaustive table of capacity-building activities undertaken by the secretariat under the Committee is presented in the secretariat's report as contained in ANNEX I of this document.

VII. Cooperation with other organizations

14. The Joint Section has been effectively cooperating with a number of stakeholders in the implementation of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work. Some of the highlights include:

- The Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics coordinates the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire amongst the 4 participating organizations: ECE/FAO, Eurostat, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and FAO. Each of the organizations is responsible for circulating the questionnaire to those countries for which it is responsible. Results of the questionnaire are provided to the partner organizations as needed. Each organization publishes these results according to its mandate and needs. We are grateful to our partners for their dedication and cooperation in producing the best forest products statistics possible.
- The 2020 pan-European reporting is done in coordination with the global effort, as a collective endeavour of UNECE, FAO and the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava. This includes technical guidance and training to correspondents from Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.
- The Joint Section continues to cooperate with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava and contributes to many actions of the new Forest Europe Work Programme, which includes support to the development of a report on the State of Europe's Forests, SFM tools developed by the Forest Europe (FE) process on criteria and indicators for SFM, and work on green jobs and ecosystem services.
- The Joint Section, with the encouragement of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, and in collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the European Commission (EC) produce the "Joint Wood Energy Enquiry", which aims at improving knowledge and understanding of wood energy production and consumption. Improving data reporting on wood energy has led to a better understanding of future prospects for wood energy in the region.
- The Joint Section is an active member of the Steering Committee of the newly established Alliance on Sustainable Fashion in order to continue to promote the use of sustainable forest fibers. Members of the Steering Committee include representatives from: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, International Trade Centre, FAO, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), International Labour Organization (ILO) and Global Compact.
- To implement the UNDA capacity-building project on "Accountability systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia," the Joint Section collaborates with partners from the United Nations system to carry out on-the-ground actions at the national level, delivering as one, working with UNDP and FAO country offices and with other organizations, such as the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ);
- The Joint Section supports international work and cooperation on monitoring of forest resources and sustainable forest management, including the European Union (i.e. Eurostat, the European Economic Area and the Joint Research Centre), the Montreal process 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.
- One of the outcomes of previous strategic reviews called for increased interaction with the private sector. For this reason, the Joint Section has partnered with Uusi puu, a

Finnish association that promotes innovations in wood products. Through an exhibition that was featured as part of the 5th European Forest Week from 4 to 15 November in Geneva, wood-based innovations from different companies were showcased.

- Finally, it should be noted that COFFI and the Joint Section functions provide important opportunities for collaboration between member States, international organizations, formal or informal working groups, private sector firms, and scientists throughout the UNECE region. Recent activity by the Circumboreal Working Group and the establishment of a Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests is a case in point.

Annex I

Key deliverables and events of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and its secretariat (2019)

A. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

1. Forest resources

- (a) **Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services, progress toward Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy**
- 2020 reporting cycle of the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): organization (jointly with FAO) of a regional capacity building workshop for national correspondents from the Caucasus and Central Asia region in Tbilisi, Georgia (December 2018); cooperation with FAO and other CFRQ partners on the finalization of the national data collection and review;
 - Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests (jointly with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava, in coordination with the FAO FRA secretariat): finalization of national data collection and review;
 - Development of concept and initiation of work on the joint FAO/UNECE/Forest Europe forest data platform;
 - Development of the questionnaire and collection of data on forest damage and disturbance monitoring in the UNECE region.
- (b) **Analysis and assessment of the state of forests, sustainability of forest management and monitoring of the role of the forest sector in a green economy**
- 2020 reporting cycle of the Global FRA and CFRQ: support to FAO FRA secretariat to analyze the global data;
 - Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests (jointly with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava, in coordination with the FAO FRA secretariat): support to Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava to analyze the pan-European data;
 - Reporting on forest ownership in the region: publication of the “Study on forest ownership in the ECE region” by the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and European Cooperation in Science and Technology Action Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe (COST Action FACESMAP);
 - Publication of the State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia and launch at a side event at UNFF14 (7 May 2019), in Geneva (29 May 2019), and during the Forest Congress for the Caucasus and Central Asia (28-31 May 2019, Kyrgyzstan). The publication is available in Russian and English;
 - Publication of a study on Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia, the publication is available in Russian and English.

(c) Cooperation and contribution to international processes on SFM, including regional criteria and indicator (C&I) processes

- Support to the UNFF Secretariat on reporting the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the related Communication Strategy; including support to the organization of the 11th session of UNFF;
- Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe) in the region on monitoring SFM e.g. participation in the Advisory Group, the final conference of, and support to the implementation of the project Distributed, Integrated and Harmonised Forest Information for Bioeconomy Outlooks - Diabolo);
- Advisory mission to organize the National Forest Policy Dialogue in Kazakhstan, (Nur Sultan, April 2019);
- Contribution to capacity building on C&Is under the UNDA project (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan);
- Publication of the Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set for Sustainable Forest Management under the UNDA project, the publication is available in English and Russian;
- Organization of the 2nd meeting of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM in Vienna, Austria (November 2018).

2. Forest products and markets

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products

- Preparation of historical data on forest products, species trade, and prices;
- Preparation of forecast data on forest products production and trade;
- Improvement of the existing database;
- Dissemination through FAOSTAT and ECE websites.

(b) Analysis of markets for forest products, notably relevant policy aspects, including the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) and annual Market Discussion

- Publication of the FPAMR 2018-2019;
- Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2018-2019;
- Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2019-2020;
- Preparation of the Market Discussion 2019 and the Market Statement 2019;
- Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings;
- Publication of a topical market analysis.

(c) Support of international processes in forest products

- Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;
- Review of international classifications, support to the Harmonized System 2022 revision;

- Organization of the meetings of the ToS on Forest Products Statistics and the ToS on Sustainable Forest Products.

3. Wood energy

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy

- Issuance of a new database on wood energy with 2017 data;
- Analysis of results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquire (JWEE) 2017;
- Dissemination of the 2017 JWEE data at relevant international meetings.

(b) Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand for, and supply of, wood energy

- Dissemination of the outcomes of previous study on “Wood Energy in the ECE Region” at relevant international meetings;
- Provide input to the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews on forests.

(c) Support of international processes in wood energy

- Organization of meeting of the ToS on Wood Energy in Umea, Sweden on 03-04 June 2019.

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

(a) National Forest Policy Dialogues

- Organization of the National Forest Policy Dialogue “National Forestry Plan revision and modernization of the forest management system” in cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in Baku, Azerbaijan on 21 February 2019;
- Advisory mission to organize a National Forest Policy Dialogue meeting in Kazakhstan and to initiate the work on a Roadmap for a National Forest Strategy for Kazakhstan until 2030 in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan, Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan, 1 - 3 April 2019;

(b) Follow-up to the Rovaniemi Action Plan (RAP) for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy

- Promoting and monitoring of the implementation of RAP, as relevant;
- Implementation of the RAP priority actions as agreed by the Working Party in 2019;
- Dissemination of information on the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy (bio-economy and circular economy), as relevant e.g. Standing Committee on Agricultural Research “Workshop on International Cooperation in Research and Innovation for the Future European Forest-based Sector, 5 February 2019.

- (c) **Contribution to policy-related components of activities under Work Areas 1, 3 and 4**
- (d) **Forest Sector Outlook**
- Organization of the workshop “Exchange of Experiences in Forest Sector Outlook Studies and Related Work” in Koli, Finland, February 2019, during which the preliminary results of the prioritized scenarios were presented and discussed among experts;
 - Organization of the meeting of the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook, Koli, Finland, February 2019 to continue the technical discussion of scenarios and plan the next steps;
 - Organization of an interactive session during the 41st session of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management to present the results to member States and receive further guidance;
 - Coordination and organization of the development of the Forest Sector Outlook study;
 - Contribution to the study through research and drafting of chapter parts.
- (e) **Green Jobs in the Forest Sector**
- Organization of the meeting(s) of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint ILO/UNECE/FAO Expert Network), 27 June 2019, Madrid Spain;
 - Organization of a workshop on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector on 25-26 June 2019 in Madrid, Spain;
 - Promotion and dissemination of the study on the Forest Sector Workforce e.g. during the ILO 6th Conference on the Regulating for Decent Work Network on 8-10 July 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland;
 - Promotion and dissemination of the study on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector and the report “Trends in green jobs in the forest sector in the UNECE region e.g. IUFRO World Forest Congress on 28 September – 5 October 2019, Curitiba, Brazil;
 - Finalisation of the ECE/FAO/Forest Europe “Guidelines on the Promotion of Green Jobs in Forestry”.
- (f) **Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policymaking for the forest sector**
- Organization of the 5th meeting of the Forest Policy Network, 27 March 2019, Geneva, Switzerland;
 - Organization of a Forest Landscape Restoration session during the Forest Congress for the Caucasus and Central Asia, 28-31 May 2019, Kyrgyzstan, which followed-up on the pledges under the Bonn Challenge which were made during a 2018 Ministerial Roundtable for the region.
- (g) **Tools for policymaking - studies and publications**
- Publication of the Guidelines for the development of a Criteria and Indicators Set for Sustainable Forest Management in English and Russian, under the

UNECE/FAO, UNDA capacity-building project “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”;

- Publication of a discussion paper on “Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia” in English and Russian.

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

(a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of SFM and forest products and services

- Organization of an exhibition on “Forests for Fashion” at the 4th UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya from 10-15 March 2019;
- The International Day of Forests (IDF) was celebrated on 21 March 2019 with several events. A Forest Breakfast and handicraft workshops were organized with the support of State Forests, Poland. An exhibition on innovative wood and cellulose products was organized in a paper cave with the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI). Under the auspices of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development a side event “Forest Quiz Time!” was organized in cooperation with the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC). The Joint Section also contributed a speaker on forest education and pedagogy to the Roundtable “The Power of Knowledge for Change”;
- Organization of a side event to launch the study “State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia” at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF14), 7 May 2019, New York, United States;
- Organization of a publications launch event of the studies “State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia”, “Forests Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia” and “Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set for Sustainable Forest Management”, including an Ambassadors’ Roundtable, 29 May 2019, Geneva, Switzerland;
- Organization of the annual meeting of the ToS on Forest Communication – the Forest Communicators’ Network, 20-22 May 2019 in Oslo, Norway;
- Organization and coordination of the 5th European Forest Week on “Forests and the Circular Economy”, including side events during the joint session and a communications campaign.

(b) Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information is released

- Press releases published in 2019 (as of 31 July 2019): “Learn to love forests: Geneva encourages forest education to change the world for the better” (21 March 2019); “UNECE and FAO take stock of the state of forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia in first ever study” (07 May 2019); “UNECE and FAO issue guidelines to develop national forest monitoring systems” (23 May 2019); “Azerbaijan brings degraded land restoration commitments in Caucasus and Central Asia to 3 million ha” (31 May 2019).
- News releases published in 2019 (as of 31 July 2019): “Armenia harmonizes forest monitoring system” (20 February 2019); “UNECE and FAO support Azerbaijan in the revision of its National Forestry Program” (26 February 2019); “Forests for Fashion initiative sets new trends” (14 March 2019); “10 facts to fall in love with forests” (20 March 2019); “UN Deputy Secretary General celebrates the

International Day of Forests in Geneva (21 March 2019);; “Countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus scale up ecosystem restoration” (28 May 2019).

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

(a) Organization of capacity-building workshops

- JFSQ correspondents meeting on improving knowledge about and responses to Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire was held from 23 to 25 January 2019, in Yokohama, Japan.

(b) Implementation of the UN Development Account (UNDA) project: Accountability systems for SFM in the Caucasus and Central Asia (2016-2019):

- The 2nd national Workshop on “Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management for Armenia” was held 20-22 February 2019, in Yerevan, Armenia;
- The Forest Congress for the Caucasus and Central Asia was held 28-30 May 2019 in Kyrgyzstan. This was the concluding regional workshop under the UNECE/FAO, UNDA project “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”. The final project report including the results will be published in 2019 and the project will be externally evaluated. The training material which was developed and applied under this project, the “Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set for Sustainable Forest Management” was published officially and printed in English and Russian;
- A proposal to extend the project for 7 months until September 2020 was submitted to UN DESA, if the application is successful further activities will be implemented under the project and the evaluation of the project will be postponed to 2020.

E. Monitoring and management of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work

(a) Intergovernmental Meetings

- Organization of the meeting of the 41st session of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management in Geneva, Switzerland (27 - 29 March 2019);
- Organization of “Forêt2019”, the joint 77th session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the 40th session of the European Forestry Commission in Geneva, Switzerland (4 - 7 November 2019).

(b) Bureaux Meetings

- Organization of Joint Bureaux meetings in Geneva, Switzerland (26 March 2019).
