

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

1. The Working Party is a subsidiary body of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and contributes to the implementation of the integrated programme of work of those two bodies. It does so by coordinating the Teams of Specialists and the activities of the Integrated Programme of Work as well as providing technical advice. It takes instructions from the Committee and the Commission and meets annually to:

- (a) Provide guidance on the implementation of all areas of the programme of work;
- (b) Supervise the work of Teams of Specialists and facilitate the exchange of information on their work;
- (c) Identify priorities for action and relevant emerging issues; and transmit suggested priorities and specific recommendations to the Committee and the Commission for consideration.

2. The Working Party 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.

3. The Working Party 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 Working Party 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;
- (c) Increase the visibility and impact of the work of Teams of Specialists among Member States and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations;

4. The Working Party, as part of its work for the Committee and Commission, shall:

- (a) Propose priorities for activities in the work areas and on relevant emerging issues;
- (b) Develop, upon request from the parent bodies, methodologies for use in economic analysis of the sector, as well as techniques for collecting, validating, analyzing and disseminating information and statistics;
- (c) Undertake, upon request from the parent bodies, ad hoc projects in economics and statistics related to forestry, forest products and forest policies and 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 Outlooks and the Forest Products Annual Market Reviews;

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- (e) Reach out to other sectors 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;
 - (f) Work together with other international bodies, including Forest Europe, Eurostat, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Conference of European Statisticians, with a view to coordinating activities and avoiding any duplication of effort.
5. The work of this working party will be assessed after the next two sessions of this body.