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Fifty-fifth session

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES SINCE THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION AND PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1998-2002

(Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda)

Note by the secretariat

This document contains a brief overview of activities in 1996/97, and identifies four issues which appear to require the attention of the Committee. On the basis of this review and discussion, as well as the ECE Plan of Action, the Committee is invited to approve a programme of work, a rank ordering of programme elements, and a list of forthcoming meetings, on the basis of the drafts in annexes 1, 2 and 3.

Introduction

1. Under this agenda item, the Committee is invited to review activities since its last session and to approve a programme of work for 1998-2002. In order to enable the Committee to focus its discussion on questions of priority and strategic direction, the organisation of the discussions under this agenda item, and of the present document, have been changed.

2. The present document contains:

- a short overview of all activities carried out under the Committee's auspices between October 1996 and October 1997, with references to other documents (e.g. reports of meetings) where fuller information may be obtained;
- an indication of those points of decision or discussion to which the Committee may wish to devote priority attention;
- a draft programme, which the Committee is invited to review in detail, adapt if necessary and approve.

3. Supplementary documentation for this agenda item includes the following:

- information on activities which are not reported elsewhere:
 - report of the study tour in the Baltic states (TIM/1997/5/Add.1)
 - team of specialists on recycling, energy and market interactions (TIM/1997/5/Add.2)
 - Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (TIM/1997/5/Add.3)
 - team of specialists on public relations (TIM/1997/5/Add.4)
- Information on activities of FAO and of other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies which are of relevance to the Timber Committee (TIM/1997/6)

4. In this way, it is hoped that delegations may have an overview of developments, while maintaining access to detailed background information, and thus be in a position to devote the limited session time to discussion of the most important aspects. Delegations may wish to comment, during the session or after it, to the bureau or to the secretariat, on this change in format and whether it should be maintained in forthcoming years.

Overview of activities since the fifty-fourth session

5. The highlights are as follows (references to original sources in brackets):

1.1 Collection and dissemination of information on trends in the sector

- Six issues of the *Timber Bulletin* were published (ECE/TIM/BULL/49/..), with information and analysis on market conditions, production and trade, prices and forest fires;

- One country profile were issued (Moldova) and one is in preparation (Russia) (ECE/TIM/SP/5 and ECE/TIM/SP/..)
- Two numbers of *International Forest Fire News* were issued;
- A set of "Forest and forest industries country fact sheets" were issued (ECE/TIM/SP/12);
- A Timber Committee website was created (URL is <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>), which will be further developed;
- The *Timber Committee Yearbook 1997* was issued in January 1997;
- The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics reviewed the whole system of collection and dissemination of information and made recommendations for improvement (TIM/EFC/WP.2/27, paras 13-19)
- The Intersecretariat Working Group on forest sector statistics met twice, coordinating activities of international organisations: main topics were the joint FAO/ECE/EUROSTAT questionnaire and partnership building for forest resource assessment (TIM/EFC/WP.2/27, para. 20). It expressed its willingness to discuss with ITTO the preparation of a joint FAO/ECE/EUROSTAT/ITTO questionnaire.

1.2 Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (TIM/1997/5/Add.3)

- An enquiry, with terms and definitions and guidance to national correspondents, was finalised and circulated in summer 1997, after widespread consultation, notably with FAO Rome, the team of specialists and the Joint Working Party, as well as a many other organisations and individual specialists;
- Two meetings with TBFRA 2000 national correspondents are planned, one focused on countries in transition, in Austria in October 1997, and one, for all correspondents, in Geneva, shortly after the Committee session. These briefing meetings are particularly important to improve comparability in interpretation of definitions, and addressing problems arising in a cooperative and transparent manner;
- Efforts are being made to obtain extra-budgetary resources to ensure adequate quality of the TBFRA 2000.

1.3 Sustainable forest management in the region: support to the follow-up to UNCED and the pan-European process on the protection of forests

- Information is being collected, though TBFRA 2000, on quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management for the Lisbon Ministerial Conference in June 1998. (TIM/1997/5/Add.3)
- A team of specialists, under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee, is collecting material on social aspects of the forest sector as input to the preparation of the Lisbon Conference (TIM/EFC/WP.1/AC.1/20, and an oral report to the Committee);

- A study tour of the Baltic countries took place in May 1997 (TIM/1997/5/Add.1): informal consultations for a 1998 study tour have been started and the Committee will be informed orally of developments;
- The team of specialists on public relations of the forest sector met in June 1997 and a workshop on PR in countries in transition was held in Austria;
- The team of specialists on recycling, energy and market interactions was formed. It will have met twice, and will report in 1998.
- The team of specialists on reducing impact of forest operations on ecosystems met in May in Munich and will prepare a compendium of available knowledge on this topic.

1.4 Activities for countries in transition

- The team of specialists met in Geneva in May 1996 and will meet in November 1997 in Slovenia;
- The secretariat continued to implement its mandate as international coordinator for Helsinki resolution H3 on forestry assistance to countries in transition; a data base on the topic, based on project by project information supplied by national correspondents has been developed: its contents were distributed in printed form (ECE/TIM/DP/12) and in ACCESS format;
- The third workshop on marketing of forest products for countries in transition will take place in Arkangelsk (Russia) in November 1997.

1.5 Review of markets for forest products and short-term forecasts

- The *Annual Forest Products Market Review* was prepared in July 1997 (ECE/TIM/BULL/50/3);
- The annual market discussion will take place on Tuesday 7 October (item 4 of the provisional agenda);
- There will be a special topic on the markets for certified forest products on Monday 6 October (item 3 of the provisional agenda).

1.6 Outlook for the supply and demand for timber and non-wood goods and services

- Following the issue of ETTS V in August 1996, all the accompanying "ETTS V Working papers" were issued by spring 1997 (ECE/TIM/DP/4 to 11)
- The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party evaluated the ETTS V "process" and made a number of recommendations for new activities in this field (TIM/EFC/WP.2/27, paras. 6-8)
- The study of non-wood goods and services, prepared by members of a team of specialists will be completed and sent for processing in summer 1997.

2.1 Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

- The Working Party met in May 1997 and discussed ETTS V, TBFRA 2000, the study on non-wood goods and services and the statistical system, all mentioned above (TIM/EFC/WP.2/27).

2.2 Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training

- The Steering Committee met in June 1997, reviewed activities and started preparations for the 1998 session to be held in Slovakia;
- A seminar on "Safety and health in forestry are feasible!" took place in Switzerland in November 1996
- A workshop on multiple use forestry took place in Sweden in June 1997
- A workshop on new trends in thinnings will take place in Slovakia in September 1997
- Reports are under preparation, by teams of specialists, on multiple use forestry and on reducing impact on forest operations on ecosystems;
- Five seminars or workshops are planned for 1998, two for 1999 and two for 2000, with Joint Committee sessions in 1998 and 2000.

Availability of resources

6. According to the ECE Plan of Action, 3.0% of ECE resources are devoted to the Timber Committee. Thus, the staff available in Geneva to carry out the integrated ECE/FAO work programme (including the FAO staff, who, of course, are not included in the 3.0%) are 5 professional posts, of which 1 (FAO) post vacant, and 5 general service posts (of which 1 half time). Recruitment is being carried out for the vacant post and the Committee will be informed of developments. When the post is filled, the bureaux will be consulted about priorities in allocation of resources between programme elements.

Questions requiring the attention of the Committee

7. Most of the activities mentioned in the overview above probably do not require discussion by the Committee in plenary session, although delegates are of course free to make comments and suggestions on any part of the programme. There are however some questions which in the secretariat's opinion should be brought to the Committee's attention, as requiring either decision by the Committee or formal endorsement of proposals made elsewhere. These are described below.

- Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (TBFRA 2000)

8. The TBFRA 2000 is probably the most demanding item on the Committee's programme at present. Governments have repeatedly confirmed the priority they attach to obtaining better information on the forest resource, at a wide variety of fora, including COFO and the IPF. Furthermore, as partnerships are being built, the resources available can be concentrated in one effort, the Forest Resource Assessment 2000, of which TBFRA 2000 is an integral part, rather than

being scattered over a variety of uncoordinated projects. Thus the pan-European process is relying on TBFRA for most of the quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management to be presented to the Lisbon conference in June 1998. Preparations for TBFRA 2000 may be considered to be on schedule, and many partnerships are in place. However, to achieve results which meet the justified high expectations of member countries and the forest community as a whole, two conditions must be met:

- Countries, through their national correspondents, must supply data, of high quality, in the format requested, by the deadline; and
- The secretariat must have sufficient resources to validate and analyse the data and present the results.

9. To achieve the first objective, sufficient priority must be attached at the national level to preparing satisfactory replies to the questionnaire. In particular:

- National correspondents, and their staff, must allot sufficient time and priority to preparing the reply, by the agreed deadline;
- They must have the authority and political support, if necessary, to approach other agencies (notably environmental agencies), in order to bring together the wide range of information necessary for TBFRA 2000;
- They should have the necessary resources to accomplish their task, including travel funds to attend the correspondents' meeting in November 1997.

10. With regard to secretariat resources, there is concern that the quality of the final output will be constrained by the resources available. In addition to its continuing close cooperation with the FAO Forestry Department, and the new partnerships being established, the Geneva secretariat has been actively seeking contributions of funds or in kind (notably loan of experts). Some contributions have been received or promised, but there is still scope for significant improvement.

11. The Committee may therefore wish to:

- Urge countries to provide sufficient material and political support to their national TBFRA 2000 correspondents to enable them to provide the information requested;
- Urge countries to consider whether they are in a position to contribute resources to help the secretariat in its task of validating and analysing the replies received.

- Forestry assistance to countries in transition¹

12. The team of specialists on countries in transition has listed the priority areas for assistance, identified by those countries themselves. The monitoring work carried out in accordance with the resolution H3 of the Helsinki conference lists what has actually been implemented. However, the report (ECE/TIM/DP/12) shows that:

- There is little coordination of assistance (donors and recipients often report different activities), or mechanisms to ensure that it is directed towards priority areas;
- Some countries, including major donors and recipients, do not report forestry assistance to the Geneva secretariat, despite the commitments made in the resolution.

13. The Committee may therefore wish:

- To urge those countries which have not yet done so to provide information on forestry assistance to countries in transition to the secretariat, and countries which have already provided information to regularly update it;
- To urge all countries preparing programmes for assistance to countries in transition (both donors and recipients) to take into account at the planning stage both the priority areas and the on-going activities as reported to Geneva, to ensure that assistance was well targeted and did not duplicate other assistance programmes.

- Outlook studies

14. The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party made a number of suggestions for building on the experience of ETTS V, to make the timber trends studies system more up to date and more user-friendly (TIM/EFC/WP.2/27, paras, 6-8). However, in the present staffing position, and given the urgency of work on the TBFRA 2000, and in support of the Lisbon conference, to which the Section chief, who is also the ETTS coordinator, must devote a large part of his time, this work cannot be implemented fully at present.

15. The Committee may wish to note, regretfully, that work on improving the ETTS system has been suspended pending full staffing of the Geneva team, but that this work will be taken up as soon as the vacancy is filled.

- Translation of "Study Papers"

16. The main output of many Timber Committee programme elements has been issued in the series of *Geneva Timber and Forest Study Papers* (ECE/TIM/SP/..). Recently however, the UNOG services have been instructed not to translate "publications", which, in their opinion includes the series of Study Papers. Most numbers of the *Timber Bulletin* are already bilingual to economise translation resources.

¹This term is used because it is the title of the Helsinki resolution: in fact the whole forest and forest products sector is covered by the work.

17. The Committee may wish to reaffirm that the issue of Study Papers represents an integral part of its work programme, and that in the future, all Study Papers should continue to be issued in all three official languages of ECE as in the past.

Conclusions

18. In the light of the overview above and the discussions on the above-mentioned points, the Committee is invited to approve a programme of work for 1998 to 2002, on the basis of the draft contained in annex I. This draft programme has been prepared taking into account the ECE Plan of Action (see TIM/1997/1), the existing programme and developments during 1996/97, notably the work of the subsidiary bodies and teams of specialists, as well as of the activities of FAO, other international organisations and other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies. The Committee is also invited to rank order its programme elements (see proposed rank order in annex 2) and to approve its list of forthcoming meetings (annex 3).

ANNEX I

PART I

DRAFT INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE
AND THE FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
FOR 1998-2002

This programme is carried out by the ECE Timber Committee (TC) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), and their subsidiary bodies, which meet approximately in a two year cycle:

- The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training (JC)(1998, 2000)
- The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (FES)(1999, 2001)
- The EFC Working Party on Management of Mountain Watersheds (1998, 2000)
- The EFC/AFWC/NEFC Working Party on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea* (SM) (1999, 2001)

A. CORE PROGRAMME: MONITORING AND ANALYSIS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR IN THE REGION

1.1 Collection and dissemination of information on trends in the sector, including publication of the *Timber Bulletin*

Description: Information is regularly collected and disseminated on production, trade and prices of roundwood and forest products, and forest fires.

Method of work: Statistics are collected on an annual basis from countries and published in the *Timber Bulletin* (6 issues a year). Data collection is coordinated with FAO Rome and EUROSTAT (possibly other organisations e.g. ITTO in future), and the results are shared between all three organisations. The whole system is reviewed by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics at its biennial sessions.

Duration: Continuing

1.2 Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (temperate and boreal forests)

Description: Information on the forest resource of the temperate and boreal zones (including developed countries outside the ECE region), will be collected and published in the context of the FAO global forest resource assessment, under the guidance of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics.

Method of work: The results of an enquiry, circulated to national correspondents in 1997, will be published in 1999. The enquiry was prepared under the supervision of a team of specialists, taking into account the recommendations of the Experts Consultation at Kotka (Finland) in June 1996. An *ad hoc* meeting in November 1997 will be held to brief national correspondents on the implementation of the assessment and interpretation of the enquiry. At all stages, the work is being carried out in close cooperation with the FAO Forestry Department and other organisations active in this area.

Duration: Continuing, review in 2003

1.3 Sustainable forest management in the region: support to the follow-up to UNCED and the pan European process on the protection of forests

Description: The Committee and the Commission will provide support, as appropriate, to the follow-up to UNCED, including the work of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), and the pan-European process of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests. In particular the Commission will review, on a regular basis, national forest policies and selected topical policy issues in order to review implementation at the national level of the provisions of UNCED and the pan European process, and as support for national policy makers. The Committee and the Commission will collect and analyse information relevant to Helsinki Conference resolutions H1 and H2, notably as regards quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management and support the report to the Lisbon Conference on this subject.

Method of work: At each EFC session, delegates submit national progress reports, according to an outline drawn up by the Executive Committee. These reports are synthesized by the secretariat before the session, presented and discussed. At its session in 1998, the EFC will discuss those results of CSD relevant to Europe, topical issues relevant to Europe and formulate recommendations concerning FAO's strategy from a European viewpoint. In addition, the secretariat, in agreement with the General Coordinating Committee of the pan European process and in cooperation with other relevant international organisations, including FAO, EU, OECD and ICP Forest will supply data relevant to the Helsinki list of quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management. Existing sources, notably the Forest Resource Assessment, will be used to the extent possible, and may be modified to improve their capacity to help the pan European process. In view of the considerable importance of good public information and relations for sustainable forest management, a team of specialists will work towards creating a positive image of the forest sector, according to the mandate in TIM/R.280;FO:EFC/96/16, annex. A team of specialists, under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee will provide input for a possible resolution on social aspects of the forest sector for the Lisbon Conference.

Duration: to 1999

1.4 Activities for countries in transition, including coordination of implementation of resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference

Description: The Committee and Commission will provide assistance to the countries in transition, in order to promote the process of economic reform and

transition to a market economy in their forest and forest products sector. The topics and themes to be included in this programme shall be in line with the priorities and needs identified by the countries concerned. In particular, the Committee and the Commission will contribute to implementing resolution H3 on forestry assistance to countries in transition, by monitoring and analysing this assistance, in particular to determine whether it corresponds to countries' real needs and priorities.

Method of work: The work is guided by a team of specialists, which meets regularly (next in November 1997 in Slovenia). The secretariat, as international coordinator for H3, collects, stores and analyses information and reports regularly to the parent bodies and, as appropriate, to meetings of the pan-European process. A data base on forestry assistance to countries in transition is maintained and its contents made available. The Committee and Commission implement a wide range of activities, notably workshops, which are scheduled and organized in a flexible manner, under two broad headings:

- Institution building, including legal and policy infrastructure;
- Development of market oriented and ecologically sound enterprises.

Duration: to 1999

1.5 Review of markets for forest products and short term forecasts

Description: The Committee analyses, on a continuous basis, short term trends in the production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products and forecasts short term prospects, with a view to providing Governments and the forest products sector with accurate and up-to-date information and assessments.

Method of work: The annual session of the Timber Committee reviews short term trends and prospects in the markets, on the basis of estimates provided by delegations and the Forest Products Annual Market Review, prepared by the secretariat, which reviews trends in the previous year. An analysis of trends, approved by the Committee, is published. Delegations also provide information on trends in the markets for certified forest products and the development of certification systems in their countries.

Duration: Continuing

1.6 Outlook for the supply and demand for timber and for non-wood goods and services

Description: The Committee and Commission prepare, keep under review and regularly up-date projections and forecasts of long-term trends in production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products, and of the interaction of all of these, in order to assess the long term sustainability of the European timber supply. The Committee and the Commission will also carry out a study on the outlook for the supply and demand of the non-wood goods and services of the forest. The work is overseen and guided by the FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics.

Method of work: The fifth European timber trends study (ETTS V) was published and disseminated in 1996. The joint session in 1996 reviewed its results and discussed its implications for policy. An evaluation of the whole process was carried out by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party. A core team on outlook studies and data will be formed and hold its first meeting in 1998. The secretariat, guided by the core team, will implement the Working Party's recommendations, as

soon as the Geneva group is fully staffed.

A study, by a team of specialists, on the situation for non-wood goods and services, composed of national reports prepared according to a common format, will be issued in 1997.

A team of specialists on recycling, energy and market interactions will analyse the influences and interactions of technological and legislative developments on recycling, energy and timber markets, according to the mandate proposed in TIM/R.281/Add.4; FO:EFC/96/17/Add.4).

Duration: Continuing

B. AREAS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COMMISSION AND/OR THE COMMITTEE

2.1 Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

Description: The Working Party keeps under review the needs for international statistics in the forest and forest products sector and develops programmes to meet those needs, notably with regard to improving comparability; develops methodologies for collection and analysis of information and statistics; and undertakes projects in the field of economics and statistics relating to forestry and forest products.

Method of work: The Working Party meets every two years and advises the parent bodies and the secretariat on the implementation of work in its field. In particular, it is responsible for guiding the implementation, in its area of competence, of programme elements 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5 and 1.6.

Duration: Continuing

2.2 Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training

Description: The Joint Committee assists countries, in particular those which its parent bodies may identify at any time as requiring priority attention, to develop their forestry activities in the context of sustainable development. This is achieved by fostering international cooperation on technical, economic and organizational aspects of forest management and forest working techniques and of the training of forest workers in logging and forest operations.

Method of work: The Joint Committee's activities are led by a Steering Committee, which meets annually. There are three subject areas: management (e.g multiple use forestry, ecological and economical issues, marketing, information systems), technology (e.g. forest engineering, ecologically and economically sound operations in silviculture, wood harvesting and transport) and training (e.g. for workers, supervisors and managers, including applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health and social aspects of forestry). Much of the work is carried out by teams of specialists which report to the Joint Committee and Steering Committee sessions. A detailed programme for the Joint Committee's work in 1997-2001 is contained in TIM/EFC/WP.1/AC.1/20.

Duration: Continuing

2.3 EFC/AFWC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions, *Silva Mediterranea*

Description: *Silva Mediterranea* will advise FAO and member countries in the Mediterranean region on the implementation of the Mediterranean Forest Action

Programme (MED-FAP). It will also encourage the exchange of information and the coordination of research in topics of interest to Mediterranean forestry, through research networks.

Method of work: *Silva Mediterranea* will act, at regular sessions (seventeenth in Turkey in 1997) and between them, as an inter-governmental forum for the coordination, monitoring and orientation of MED-FAP. It will contribute to identifying international regional priority activities, as well as designing and monitoring them. Six research networks are at present operational, focusing on forest fires, key species of the subregion (stone pine, cedar species, and, the most recently created network, on cork oak), other multipurpose tree species, and on selection of stands of Mediterranean conifers for the production of seeds to be used in reforestation programmes.

Duration: Continuing

2.4 **FAO Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds**

Description: The Working Party collects information, documents technologies, monitors evolution, exchanges experience and discusses progress within mountain ecosystems in view of their sustainable management and conservation. Important areas of concentration will be sustainable management and security of mountain ecosystems, with special attention to torrent control, avalanches, risk zoning, and mapping and early warning systems.

Method of work: The Working Party has an important role in the follow-up of Agenda 21, and supports FAO's role as task manager for chapter 13 on mountain ecosystems. The twenty-first session will be held in May/June 1998 in the Czech Republic. Key areas of concentration will be sustainable management of mountain ecosystems, improved mountain livelihood systems, in response to UNCED, activities related to international agreements on mountains, and risk and disaster control and monitoring.

Duration: Continuing

PART II

Projects for possible implementation at a future time

(See ECE decision O (45) and Supplementary report containing the views and proposals of ECE to the Special Commission of ECOSOC, E/ECE/1150/Rev.1, para. 131)

Structural trends in markets for forest products and in the structure and capacity of forest industries

Description: The Committee and the Commission review medium-term (3-5 years) trends in the production, consumption, trade and prices of major forest products and the structure and capacity of the sawmilling and wood-based panels industries, so that governments may be continuously informed of structural trends in the forest products sectors.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Medium-term surveys are carried out on a 3-year rotation of sectors. These surveys incorporate as appropriate the results of surveys of the structure and capacity of major sectors (every time

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for panels, every other time for sawmilling). The issue of the medium-term surveys has been suspended until the Geneva staff is at full strength.

ANNEX II

DRAFT RANK ORDER OF PROGRAMME ELEMENTS IN THE
INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1998-2002

(as requested by the UN Economic Commission for Europe
as guidance for allocation of Geneva secretariat resources)

<u>Rank order</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	1.3	Sustainable forest management in the region: support to the follow-up to UNCED and the pan-European process on the protection of forests
2	1.5	Review of markets for forest products and short term forecasts
3	1.6	Outlook for the supply and demand for timber and for non-wood goods and services
4	1.1	Collection and dissemination of information on trends in the sector, including publication of the <i>Timber Bulletin</i>
5	1.2	Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (temperate and boreal forests)
6	1.4	Activities for countries in transition, including coordination of implementation of resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference
7	2.1	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics
8	2.2	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training
9	2.3	EFC/AFWC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions, <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>
10	2.4	FAO Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

ANNEX III

PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN 1998 AND 1999 FALLING WITHIN
THE TIMBER COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note: The meetings are sub-divided into two categories: meetings marked (A) are open to delegates or approved representatives from all member countries of ECE as well as from other countries that are members of the United Nations and organizations accredited to ECE (or to FAO and ILO, in the case of meetings co-sponsored by them). Meetings marked (B) are those restricted to the countries or individuals nominated by their countries to take part in the activity concerned, e.g. a team of specialists.

1998

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
21-22 April	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the EFC Executive Committee(B)
20-24 April	La Bastide des Jourdans (France)	Seminar on forestry training for target groups that are hard to reach (A)
April	Geneva	Team of specialists on Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (TBFA-2000)
4-8 May	Poland	First Baltic Conference on Forest Fire (B)
9-13 September	Banska Stiavnica (Slovakia)	Seminar on improving working conditions and increasing productivity in forestry (A)
14-16 September	Zvolen (Slovakia)	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, twenty-second session (A)
September (dates to be confirmed)	Ort (Austria)	FAO/Austria seminar on planning and management in forest operations for countries in transition (A)
28 September - 1 October	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, fifty-sixth session (A)
October or November (dates to be confirmed)	Italy (to be confirmed)	Seminar on harvesting of wood and non-wood forest products in the Mediterranean region (A)
Undecided	Czech Republic	Workshop on certification issues for countries in transition (B)
Undecided	Canada	Team of specialists on reducing impact of forest operations

1999

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
April (dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the EFC Executive Committee(B)
June (dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, twenty-second session (A)
June or September (dates to be confirmed)	Ossiach (Austria)	Workshop on new trends in harvesting with cable cranes (A)
20-24 September	Pessac (France)	Seminar on forest operations of tomorrow (A)
27-30 September	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, fifty-seventh session (A)
Undecided	Undecided	Workshop on reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems (A)