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Economic Commission for Europe**Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry****Seventy-second session**

Kazan, 18-21 November 2014

Item (6) of the provisional agenda

Rules of Procedure for the Committee**Draft Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Forests
and the Forest Industry****Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

This document contains draft rules of procedures proposed for the Committee by its Bureau. They have been developed in line with the review of the 2005 ECE reform, in accordance with the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE bodies adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III, appendix III).

With respect to the areas of collaboration with the FAO European Forestry Commission, the draft Rules of Procedure of the Committee have been prepared taking into consideration the Rules of procedures of the FAO European Forestry Commission as presently in force, with a view to further strengthening cooperation between the Committee and the European Forestry Commission and making their modalities of work more coherent.

The Committee is invited to review these draft rules for a possible adoption at Silva2015, the next joint session of the Committee and the Commission to be held in Switzerland.



I. Introduction

1. The draft rules of procedure in this document have been prepared in accordance with the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE bodies adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III, appendix III)¹. In any area not covered in this document, the Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe, and where applicable, Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council will be used, as taken into account by the Guidelines on Procedure and Practices for ECE bodies, *mutatis mutandis*.

II. Organization of the Committee sessions

2. Sessions of the Committee shall be held regularly once a year². Additional meetings may be convened by the Bureau³ in consultation with the secretariat.

3. At its regular sessions, the Committee decides on the dates of the next session. Changes in previously agreed dates of sessions due to unforeseen circumstances can be initiated by the Bureau in consultation with the secretariat.

4. The provisional agenda for the upcoming individual sessions of the Committee shall be drawn up by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau and shall be circulated to member States well in advance of the meeting. The provisional agenda for the sessions held jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission shall be drawn up jointly by the secretariat of the Committee and the secretariat of the FAO European Forestry Commission, in accordance with their respective internal procedures.

5. The agenda of the individual sessions of the Committee shall cover, *inter alia*, a review of the implementation of its programme of work, including a review of capacity-building activities, policy-relevant documents developed in the context of the Committee's programme of work, as well as deliberations on future activities in accordance with its Terms of Reference, as contained in document ECE/EX/10.

6. The Bureau shall suggest important substantive issues within the aforementioned Terms of Reference to be addressed during the substantive segment of the sessions.

7. The Committee shall agree on its programme of work, which shall be compatible with the Integrated Programme of Work of the Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission.

III. Representation and credentials

8. The rules for representation and participation in the Economic Commission for Europe (E/ECE/778/Rev.5)⁴ and the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for

¹ Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III).

² It is noted that, whereas the European Forestry Commission holds its regular sessions once a biennium, the Committee will hold its regular sessions once a year. With a view to further strengthening collaboration between the European Forestry Commission and the Committee, a harmonization in the periodicity of the sessions of the two bodies would be desirable.

³ See section IV.

⁴ Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe – Fifth edition (E/ECE/778/Rev.5).

ECE bodies adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III, appendix III) shall be applied.

9. Representatives of the business, academic communities and non-governmental organizations other than those recognized by the Economic and Social Council⁵ can participate in the sessions of the Committee at the invitation of the secretariat and as observers without a right to vote.

10. The list of delegates in the Committee's sessions shall be communicated by the secretariat to the Permanent Representations of member States to the United Nations Organizations in Geneva five working days prior to the starting date of the session.

IV. Officers

11. The Committee shall elect a Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons among individuals nominated by member States of UNECE. The Committee Bureau shall consist of those four officers⁶.

12. The term of office shall be two years. Bureau members, including the Chair, can be re-elected for two additional terms. Efforts shall be made to ensure continuity within the Bureau, as appropriate. The terms of office of elected officials will begin at the end of the session in which they are elected. This will allow the current officers to preside over the session that they have planned.

13. Candidates for the Bureau of the Committee and other subsidiary bodies shall be nominated by member States based on the person's expertise, professionalism, and expected support from the membership. Member States, while making their nomination, shall ensure that candidates or their employers have no contractual agreement with UNECE or related bodies, from which they or their employers may financially benefit, in order to avoid conflicts of interests.

14. The elections for the Bureau will take place in accordance with the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE bodies adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III, appendix III).

15. If the Chairperson is absent from any meetings or part thereof, a Vice-Chairperson shall perform the functions of the Chairperson. If no Vice-Chairperson is present, the Committee shall elect an interim Chairperson for that meeting or that part of the meeting.

16. If the Chairperson can no longer perform the functions of the office, the Bureau of the Committee shall designate one of the Vice-Chairpersons as interim Chairperson to perform those functions pending the election of a new Chairperson by the Committee. The interim Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.

17. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons serve collectively in the interest of all member States of the Committee and not as official representatives of their

⁵ Non-governmental organizations recognized by the Economic and Social Council are covered in document E/ECE/778/Rev.5, which is referred to in paragraph 8.

⁶ This is in line with the European Forestry Commission Executive Committee as adopted at "Orman2011" the joint session of the Committee and the European Forestry Commission held in Turkey in October 2011 (see ECE/TIM/2011/13 - FO:EFC/2011/13 and http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/gsb/Statutes/EFC_RoP.pdf).

Governments, and act within the Terms of Reference of the Committee and these Rules of Procedures. The work of the Bureau is carried out in a way that is member driven, consensus-oriented, transparent and accountable.

V. Functions of the Bureau

18. The key functions of the Bureau are those detailed in the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE bodies adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III, appendix III).

19. In addition to these key functions, Bureau members, together with the members of the FAO European Forestry Commission Executive Committee, are responsible for the preparation and organization of joint sessions of the Committee and the European Forestry Commission and the coordination of intersessional work. For this purpose, and to discuss other cooperation issues between the two bodies, Bureau members will attend the joint Bureaux⁷.

20. The Bureau shall report to the Committee.

VI. Procedures for the adoption of decisions and Committee meeting reports

21. The Committee shall, whenever possible, take decisions on the basis of consensus. If voting is used, the Chapter on Voting in the Rules of Procedure of the ECE shall apply.

22. A draft report of the meeting, which reflects in a concise and factual manner the discussion and the views expressed by participants, should be circulated before the end of the meeting for comments and adoption by member States at the end of the meeting.

23. If the draft report cannot be circulated at or adopted during the meeting for technical reasons, the Committee will distribute it to all Geneva Permanent Representations for subsequent approval no later than ten days after the conclusion of the meeting.

VII. Subsidiary bodies

24. The Committee may establish Teams of Specialists or other subsidiary bodies, in accordance with the existing Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Teams of Specialists within ECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1), in order to fulfil particular objectives in accordance with the terms of reference created for them, subject to approval by the ECE Executive Committee (EXCOM).

25. The terms of reference and reporting procedures of the subsidiary bodies shall be determined by the Committee.

⁷ Joint meetings of the Committee Bureau and the FAO European Forestry Commission Executive Committee (see ECE/TIM/2013/2-FO: EFC/2013/2 and ECE/EX/10).