



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

#### Eighty-second session

Geneva, 13-15 November 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Opening and adoption of the agenda

## Annotated provisional agenda for the eighty-second session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room VII, starting on 13 November 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. Forest economics and markets:
  - (a) Deforestation-free trade dialogue;
  - (b) Draft Forest Products Market Statement;
3. Matters arising since the last session:
  - (a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies;
  - (b) Recent developments in other organizations.
4. Reporting on the Committee's Programme of Work:
  - (a) Programme of work for 2025 and recommendations on key components of the programme of work 2026;
  - (b) Boreal forest work;
  - (c) Urban forestry work;
  - (d) Forest information systems;
  - (e) Update on automation of data;
  - (f) Climate change and forests in the Economic Commission for Europe region;



- (g) Communication and activities 2024 and 2025.
- 5. Integrated Programme of Work:
  - (a) Review of Draft 1 Integrated Programme of Work 2026-2029;
  - (b) Report of the Joint Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management;
  - (c) Update on the 2025 cycle of the Global Forest Resources Assessment and Joint pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management;
  - (d) Progress report on forest damages and disturbances work.
- 6. Youth, gender, human rights and disability inclusion in forestry.
- 7. Capacity-building and technical assistance.
- 8. Election of officers.
- 9. Date and place of the next session.
- 10. Any other business.
- 11. Adoption of the report.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Opening and adoption of the agenda**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2024/1*

The eighty-second session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) meeting will be opened by the Chair of the session. Delegations will adopt the agenda of the meeting.

### **2. Forest economics and markets**

#### **(a) Deforestation-free trade dialogue**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2024/3*

Keynote speeches will introduce the topic and be followed by a dialogue set around panel discussions and presentations on the newest developments, rules and challenges of deforestation free trade. The focus of this dialogue will be European Union's Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products (EUDR) and its implications as well as other similar trade requirements and regulations. The dialogue is open to all sectors including wood, cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber and soy as well as the pulp and paper, leather, chocolate, tires trade and related industries.

The detailed programme of the dialogue will be published at <https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/392166>.

Delegates will be invited to take note of the information provided and share experiences from their countries.

#### **(b) Draft Forest Products Market Statement**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2024/4*

The Committee is invited to review the information contained in the Draft Forest Products Market Statement and send their comments ahead of the session to the secretariat (info.ece-faoforests@un.org).

Member States are invited to attend the drafting group on finalizing the Market Statement (14 November morning). The secretariat will propose updates and amendments to the document before the meeting of the drafting group based on the information provided by countries. The discussions in the drafting group will be supported by information provided through the country market statements, as well as the Forest Products Annual Market Review.

Delegates will be invited to adopt the Market Statement as agreed and finalized by the drafting group. The final Market Statement will be published as a post-session document.

### **3. Matters arising since the last session**

#### **(a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies**

The secretariat will update on developments at the United Nations, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) having an impact on the work of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry.

#### **(b) Recent developments in other organizations**

Other organizations, processes and initiatives will be invited to provide information about their activities and any developments, with an impact on the Committee's work including:

- (i) United Nations Forum on Forests 2022;
- (ii) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- (iii) Forest Europe;
- (iv) European Forest Alliance.

The Committee will be invited to take note and consider possible impact on its work.

### **4. Reporting on the Committee's Programme of Work**

#### **(a) Programme of work for 2025 and recommendations on key components of the programme of work 2026**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2024/5*

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2024/INF.2*

In line with document "Sequential review of the proposed programmes of work of ECE subprogrammes", approved by the Executive Committee at its 115th meeting on 5 March 2021, the Committee will be invited to adopt the draft annual programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2025 (ECE/TIM/2024/5) and recommend that it be approved by the Executive Committee. The programme of work is based on the ECE proposed programme budget for 2025 (A/79/6 (Sect.20)) and follows the annual budget format approved by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 77/267 of 30 December 2022.

In line with this sequential review procedure, the Committee will be also invited to consider the "Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2026" (ECE/TIM/2024/INF.2) and to provide recommendations on its components, as necessary. The recommendations agreed by the Committee and included in its decisions will be reflected in the proposed programme plan of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2026.

Delegates will be invited to adopt the programme of work and recommend it to the Executive Committee for approval.

**(b) Boreal forest work**

The secretariat will update delegates on the boreal forest work focusing on the publication on the state of boreal forests in the ECE region.

Delegates are invited to take note and provide guidance on further work.

**(c) Urban forestry work**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2024/6*

The secretariat will review activities in urban forestry during the past year and introduce document ECE/TIM/2024/5 on activities supporting the implementation of the San Marino Regional Urban Forestry Action Plan (SMAP). The secretariat will also inform about the recently established Trees in Dry Cities Coalition, the Trees in Cities Challenges as well as related matters.

Delegations will be invited to briefly inform the Committee of their actions to promote and support urban forestry at the national level, particularly the implementation of the SMAP.

The Committee is invited to comment and provide recommendations.

**(d) Forest information systems**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2024/7*

The secretariat will report on the finding of the recently finalized project on forest information systems and introduce the related publications and other products.

Delegates will be invited to discuss the findings from the project and recommend possible ways of the work's continuation.

**(e) Update on automation of data**

The secretariat will update on progress made in the automation of data repository, collection and processing processes.

Delegates will be invited to take note and provide comments and guidance on next steps and funding sources.

**(f) Climate change and forests in the Economic Commission for Europe region**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2024/8*

The secretariat will review the outcomes of the May 2024 session on Climate change and forests organized during the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management. The session was organized to contribute to climate discussions and raising the profile of forests in the ECE region globally. Some findings of the discussions and further information are highlighted in document ECE/TIM/2024/8 which also presents possible reference entries for preparations of future sessions of the Convention of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Delegates will be invited to review and provide comments.

**(g) Communication and activities 2024 and 2025**

Delegates will be updated on communication work and activities implemented in 2024 as well as scheduled events in 2025.

Delegates will be invited to provide comments.

## **5. Integrated Programme of Work**

**(a) Review of Draft 1 Integrated Programme of Work 2026-2029**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2024/9*

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2024/2*

As agreed at the May 2024 session of the (Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2024/2 para 52 c and d), the secretariat prepared Draft 1 of the Integrated Programme of Work (document ECE/TIM/2024/9). It includes comments on the zero-draft presented on 22 May 2024 during informal hybrid consultations; discussion during the Joint Working Party session, as well as comments received subsequently in writing. Comments by the Joint Bureau will become available in late September 2024.

Delegations are also invited to discuss the possible revision of the format and meeting timing of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (para 52 c); and the continuation of the Team of Specialist on Forest Communication under ECE Terms of Reference (para 52 d).

Delegations are invited to discuss and provide comments which will lead to the preparation of Draft 2 for further consultation and finalization in 2025.

**(b) Report of the Joint Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2024/2*

The Chair of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will present the report of its forty-third session which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22–24 May 2024.

The Committee will be invited to endorse the report.

**(c) Update on the 2025 cycle of the Global Forest Resources Assessment and Joint pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management**

The secretariat will update delegations on the 2025 cycle of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and the joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management process. Both processes are being carried out collaboratively by FAO, ECE and Forest Europe, with the participation of other forest-related organizations and processes.

The Committee will be invited to take note and provide feedback.

**(d) Progress report on forest damages and disturbances work**

The secretariat will inform about progress made on the reporting format for forest damage assessments in the ECE region.

Delegates will be invited to provide feedback and recommendations on the next steps.

## **6. Youth, gender, human rights and disability inclusion in forestry**

Delegates are invited to provide updates on their inclusive development strategies and actions and provide guidance on further work in this area.

## **7. Capacity-building and technical assistance**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2024/10*

Delegates will be informed about ongoing capacity-building and technical assistance projects.

In addition, delegations will be invited to participate in the presentations and discussions on non-wood forest product value chains, criteria and indicators for non-wood forest product value chain development (group work), and the related United Nations Development Account project in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Detailed information will be made available on the web site.

The Committee is invited to provide comments.

## **8. Election of officers**

The Committee is expected to elect its Chair and Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the eighty-third session. At the eighty-first session, the following persons were elected to hold office until the end of the eighty-second session: Chair, Mr. Peter Blombäck (Sweden); and Vice-Chairs, Ms. Laura Coates (Canada), Mr. Tomas Krejzar (Czech Republic) and Ms. Anita Dedic (San Marino).

## **9. Date and place of the next session**

The secretariat will inform delegates about the date and place of the joint session of the eighty-third session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the forty-third session of the FAO European Forestry Commission.

## **10. Any other business**

None at the time of writing.

## **11. Adoption of the report**

The Committee will adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat.

### III. Tentative timetable

#### Wednesday, 13 November 2024

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
10:00	<b>Item 1</b>	Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
10:15- 13:00	<b>Item 2(a)</b>	Forest economics and markets
15:00 – 18:00 (cont.)	<b>Item 2 (a) and (b)</b>	Forest economics and market (cont.)

#### Thursday, 14 November 2024

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
9:30 – 12:30	<b>Item 3</b>	Matters arising since the last session.
	<b>Item 4</b>	Reporting on the Committee’s Programme of Work
	<b>Item 5</b>	Integrated Programme of Work
	<b>Item 5(a)</b>	Review of Draft 1 Integrated Programme of Work 2026-2029
14:30 – 17:30	<b>Item 5(a)</b>	Integrated Programme of Work (cont.)
	<b>Item 5(b-d)</b>	Report of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management;  Update on the 2025 cycle of the Global Forest Resources Assessment and Joint pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management;  Progress report on forest damages and disturbances work
	<b>Item 6</b>	Youth, gender, human rights and disability inclusion in forestry

#### Friday, 15 November 2024

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
9:30 – 12:30	<b>Item 7</b>	Capacity-building and technical assistance work – presentations and group work
14:30 – 17:30	<b>Item 8</b>	Date and place of the next session
	<b>Item 9</b>	Election of officers
	<b>Item 10</b>	Any other business
	<b>Item 11</b>	Adoption of the report