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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION**

Timber Committee

European Forestry Commission

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party
on Forest Economics and Statistics

Thirty-first session
Geneva, 31 March - 1 April 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

To be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 31 March 2009*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Estimating Potential Wood Supply workshop: conclusions and results.
3. Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2008.
4. Guidance of work areas:
 - (a) Work area 1: Markets and statistics;
 - (b) Work area 2: Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region;
 - (c) Work area 3: Forest sector outlook studies;
 - (d) Work area 5: elements addressing monitoring and analysis of policies and institutions.
5. Other business.
6. Election of officers.
7. Adoption of the report.

* Delegates are requested to complete the registration form and transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, if possible two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41 22 917 0041) or by e-mail to info.timber@unece.org. Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, avenue de la Paix (see map on website) for the issuance of an identification badge at least one hour prior to the beginning of the meeting. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone at 917-2880. Documents will be issued in advance to the regular mailing list, and will also be available for downloading from the Timber website (<http://www.unece.org/timber/docs/stats-sessions/stats-31/stats-31.htm>).

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. During the latest strategic review of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work in the field of forest and timber (ECE/TIM/S/2008/6/Add.1), it was agreed that the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) / United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics should provide guidance for work areas 1, 2, 3 and elements of monitoring and analysis of policies and institutions of the integrated programme, and act as an interface between the technical and the intergovernmental levels. The Working Party should continue to meet annually. The provisional agenda has been drawn up to allow the Working Party to concentrate on the guidance function and discussion of major topics, with formal parts of the agenda kept to a minimum. Delegates are requested to be prepared to speak on the substantive items (2-7). Views of all delegates will be sought by the Chair.

2. The thirty-first session will be immediately preceded by a one-day workshop on estimating potential wood supply. It is envisioned that there will be substantial overlap between attendees. The Working Party as a permanent intergovernmental body may wish to implement any possible recommendations of the workshop.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2009/1.

3. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2: Estimating Potential Wood Supply workshop: conclusions and results

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2009/2.

4. The issue of potential wood supply continues to hold a high degree of importance for member countries. This workshop, which will take place just prior (Monday) to the Working Party meeting, will focus on available data on potential wood supply and estimation methods. It is a follow-up to the in-session seminar of the 2008 Working Party and the policy discussion on the topic during the European Forest Week in October 2008. A presentation summarizing the discussion and results will be made to the Working Party for comment, review and follow-up. Delegates are warmly invited to attend the workshop as well as the Working Party meeting.

Item 3: Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2008

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2009/3.

5. The JWEE is nearing completion and the results will be presented at the Working Party meeting. Delegates are invited to review the procedures and results and provide direction on future activities in this area.

Item 4: Guidance of work areas

(a) Work area 1: Markets and statistics;

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2009/4, ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2009/5,
ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2009/9.

(b) Work area 2: Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region;

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2009/6

(c) Work area 3: Forest sector outlook studies;

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2009/7

(d) Work area 5: elements addressing monitoring and analysis of policies and institutions.

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2009/8

6. For each of the work areas, the Working Party will be informed of activities, results and plans for the next two years, and will be invited to review and comment on these activities and plans, and to approve the detailed section of the integrated work programme referring to each work area. Results of the meetings of the respective Teams of Specialists will be reviewed.

Item 5: Other business

7. At the time of this document's submission, the secretariat has no matters for discussion under this item. Delegates should feel free to raise issues that are of concern to them prior to the meeting to facilitate discussion.

Item 6: Election of officers

8. The Working Party is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. At its thirtieth session, the Working Party elected Mr. M. Valgepea (Estonia) as Chair and Mr. A. Mariano (Italy) and Ms. S. Phelps (Canada) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of the thirty-first session.

Item 7: Adoption of the report

9. The Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

III. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

The secretariat proposes the following tentative timetable:

Monday, 30 March 2009 Estimating Potential Wood Supply workshop

Tuesday, 31 March 2009

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Items 1-2

3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Item 3

Wednesday, 1 April 2009

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Items 4 (a) and (b)

2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Items 4 (c)-7

10. Please note that on Thursday 2 April there will be a meeting of the heads of the Teams of Specialists followed by, on Friday, a meeting of the bureaux (Chair and Vice-Chairs) of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission and the Chair of the Working Party. Delegates should feel free to make suggestions which the Chair of the Working Party could then transmit to the bureaux meeting.
