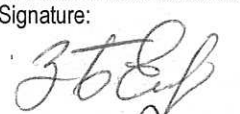
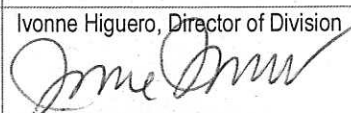
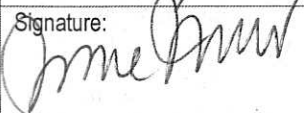
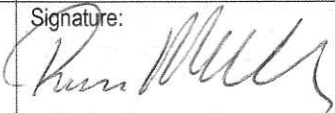




## Management Response

<b>Evaluation Title:</b>		Assessment of the relevance of the 2014-2017 UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work to the needs of member States and challenges in the forest sector	
<b>Period of Review:</b>		April 2016 – September 2016	
<b>Date of Evaluation Report:</b>		August 2016	
<b>Approved by:</b>	Zamira Eshmambetova, Director of PMU	Signature: 	Date: 15.11.2016
<b>Cleared by:</b>	Ivonne Higuero, Director of Division 	Signature: 	Date: 11.11.2016
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Roman Michalak, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Acting Chief	Signature: 	Date: 10.11.2016

### Recommendation 1:

Maintain focus on value chain from forests to forest products/timber and markets.

### **Management Response:**

UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section accepts the recommendation while noting that the scope of work of the Section is determined by the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) in their Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW). Within the context of the implementation of the current programme (2014-2017), the Section has undertaken several actions covering the forest – products – market value chain, including reports, meetings and events addressing both particular aspects of this chain (energy, ownership, green jobs, services and accounting) and the forest sector chain as a whole (e.g. report for UNFF11, forest products annual market reviews). It also has to be noted that uneven representation of the forest sector in the governance bodies poses some challenges in addressing this recommendation; while the forestry part is mainly represented by government representatives, the forest industry representation more often includes experts from business and research.

### ***Follow up actions and responsibilities:***

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will continue its efforts to maintain and further strengthen the focus on the value chain until the end of the current IPoW period, in particular in working on the next cycle of the outlook studies, which is of essential importance for the forest - forest products - markets chain. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the IPoW for the 2018-2021, and proposals will be included for their consideration in planning the work for the next period.

### Recommendation 2:

Continue using meetings for knowledge brokering and experience exchange

**Management Response:**

UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section accepts this recommendation. The Section makes every effort to organise meetings that meet the demands of the countries for enhancing knowledge and peer learning. However, broad representation of the member States is not always consistent depending on the subject of the meeting and the availability of financial resources to support participation from countries with economies in transition. For this reason the Section, in addition to the sessions of COFFI, the EFC and the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forests Statistics Economics and Management (JWP), organizes events with a focus on specific themes or regions. The Section closely cooperates with the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia through the FAO staff within the Section and has been supporting the work of Forest Europe for many years as is evidenced by a number of outputs.

***Follow up actions and responsibilities:***

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will continue work in this direction; as recommended, and will make efforts to organize more events in cooperation with relevant partners including Forest Europe process and FAO Regional Office in Budapest until the end of the current period of the IPoW. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the IPoW for the 2018-2021, and proposals will be included for their consideration in planning the work for the next period.

**Recommendation 3:**

Use joint meetings to convene with stakeholders from the entire northern forest belt

**Management Response:**

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section partially accepts this recommendation, noting that the scope of work is to some extent determined by the interests and involvement of the countries from particular regions. In general it could be observed that meetings dedicated to forest products/markets and services address the interest of stakeholders from the whole northern forest belt whereas the ones related to forest resources and management primarily focuses on the European geographical region. Partly this can be explained by the different geographical scopes of the ECE COFFI and FAO EFC.

***Follow up actions and responsibilities:***

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will work with countries and organizations and make efforts to address this recommendation, with particular attention to organizing events in cooperation with other, relevant regional organizations and processes active in northern forest belt, including Montreal Process, Forest Europe, and Circumboreal Initiative until the end of the current IPoW period. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the IPoW for the 2018-2021, for their consideration in planning the work and cooperation for the next period.

**Recommendation 4:**

Foster sectoral themes that do not receive sufficient attention in other fora

**Management Response:**

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section partially accepts this recommendation while noting that the scope of work is determined by the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) in their Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW). The Section has been working on some of the aspects of the issues mentioned in the recommendation, related to green economy (e.g. wood energy and wood construction); however, addressing them fully is not possible due to the complexity of the issues and limited resources.

The complexity of the issue also indicates the need for developing joint initiatives with other international processes/organizations.

This is further elaborated under the response to recommendation No 6.

***Follow up actions and responsibilities:***

UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will address this recommendation within the remaining time of the current IPoW; however, the implementation of this recommendation to a large extent depends on the content of the IPoW developed for the next quadrennium. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the IPoW for the 2018-2021, and proposals will be included for their consideration in planning the work for the next period.

**Recommendation 5:**

Use the Rovaniemi Action Plan as basis for institutional development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

**Management Response:**

UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section partially accepts this recommendation. The Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in Green Economy served as reference in implementing the UNECE-FAO UNDA project carried out in 2013-2016, also the new project scheduled for 2016-2019 aims at strengthening forest governance in that sub-region. However, the assistance can only be provided to countries upon their request to receive assistance in this regard as the RAP is voluntary.

***Follow up actions and responsibilities:***

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will implement the new capacity building project (during 2016 and 2017) in close cooperation with the relevant forest ministries and agencies. Support to institutional development in the Eastern Europe and Central Asian region will be also provided through other activities/projects (in cooperation with FAO and other relevant partners) aiming at supporting countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the IPoW for the 2018-2021, for their consideration in planning the work and cooperation for the next period.

**Recommendation 6:**

Coordinate actions with work for other international agreements

**Management Response:**

UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section partially accepts the recommendation while again noting that the activities are approved by the COFFI and EFC members. The Section has been cooperating with relevant partners from inside and outside the forest sector in implementing the IPoW; joint activities with FAO, Forest Europe and ITTO can serve as an example. However, there is room for further improvement in coordinating work with other processes and organizations. Heightened cooperation might be achieved by coordination already at the programmatic phase and the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy plays a central role for all interested organisations to be engaged in this cooperation. The cooperation with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava, on the development of the Forest Europe Work Programme, should be seen as a step in this direction; further opportunities are linked with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UNFF Forest Instrument.

***Follow up actions and responsibilities:***

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will continue implementation of the current IPoW in a cooperative manner, involving relevant international partners. The Section will support the activities of the other organizations and processes that are convergent with those of the IPoW. The Section will monitor developments in other international agreements (for updating the member States and stakeholders) and provide information about the contribution of the IPoW to these processes. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the IPoW for the 2018-2021, and proposals will be included for their consideration in planning the work and cooperation for the next period.

**Recommendation 7:**

Reflect on private sector integration into the work of UNECE/FAO

**Management Response:**

The UNECE/FAO accepts this recommendation. The private sector plays an important role in the forest sector in the UNECE region, in both forest management (half of the forest area in the region is privately owned) and the forest industries. The current participation of the private sector includes dialogue with the relevant organizations, companies and individuals in meetings, expert groups and sessions of the intergovernmental bodies. For instance the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the ECE COFFI is focused on the role and challenges of the private sector. Private ownership has been addressed at thematic events (e.g. Forests and Food, Forests and Fashion) and studies, like the Forest Products Annual Market Review or Forest Ownership in the UNECE Region.

***Follow up actions and responsibilities:***

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will reflect on increasing further the private sector integration into the work of UNECE/FAO. The recommendation will be transmitted to the EFC and COFFI in their work on the IPoW for the 2018-2021, and proposals will be included for their consideration in planning the work for the next period.