

Terms of Reference of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

as contained in ECE/TIM/2017/2 Annex II¹

1. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, as a Sectoral Committee of ECE, constitutes a forum for cooperation and consultation among its member States. Its objective is to strengthen the forest sector and its contribution to sustainable development throughout the region, through monitoring, analysis, capacity-building and the provision of a forum for discussion, taking into account the changing policy environment, notably as regards climate change and bioenergy. The Committee focuses on the sound and legal use of forest products, for raw material or energy, and on forest services.

2. The Committee shall, within the context of sustainable development, provide member States with the information and services which they need for policy- and decision- making as regards their forest and forest industry sector (“the sector”), including the trade and use of forest products and, when appropriate, formulate recommendations addressed to member Governments and interested organizations. To this end, it shall:

(a) With the active participation of member States, undertake short-, medium- and long-term analyses of developments in, and having an impact on, the sector, including those offering possibilities for the facilitation of international trade and for enhancing the protection of the environment;

(b) In support of these analyses, collect, store and disseminate statistics and other information relating to the sector, and carry out activities to improve their quality and comparability;

(c) Provide a framework for cooperation, e.g. by organizing seminars, workshops and ad hoc meetings and setting up time-limited Teams of Specialists, for the exchange of economic, environmental and technical information between Governments and other institutions of member States that is needed for the development and implementation of policies leading to the sustainable development of the sector and to the protection of the environment in their respective States;

(d) Carry out tasks identified by ECE or the Committee as being of priority, including the facilitation of subregional cooperation and activities in support of the economies of eastern Europe, the Caucasus and central Asia and the Mediterranean region; and

(e) It should also keep under review its structure and priorities and cooperate with other international and intergovernmental organizations active in the sector, and in particular with the FAO and its Commission, ILO and with Forest Europe, in order to ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication, thereby optimizing the use of resources. Its work programme is fully integrated with that of the Commission.

3. The Integrated Programme of Work of the Committee and the Commission has four Work Areas:

- Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment;
- Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice;
- Work Area 3: Communication and outreach; and
- Work Area 4: Capacity-building.

¹ https://unece.org/DAM/timber/meetings/20171009/Las_Documents/ECE_TIM_2017_2_FO_EFC_2017_2.pdf#page=49