

## FOREWORD

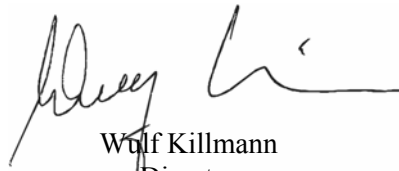
The Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products (ACPWP) is a technical statutory body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It was originally established in 1959 as the Committee on Pulp and Paper and later, in 1996, merged with the FAO Advisory Committee on Wood-based Panels.

The Committee is FAO's main contact with private forest industry. Its mandate is to advise the FAO Director-General on activities that industries consider could usefully be undertaken by the Organization in the forestry sector. Furthermore, the Committee provides a privileged avenue of communication between FAO and the private sector, ensuring both that activities undertaken by FAO are relevant to the current issues faced by industry and that the information presented is useful.

The Committee is composed of a maximum of 25 members, appointed by the FAO Director-General, based on their experience and knowledge of the industry. Typically, senior executives of companies or associations, the members come from all regions of the world and currently represent over 90 percent of the global pulp and paper industries sector. FAO gratefully acknowledges the contribution made by Committee members who so generously donate their time and their organizations' resources in support of FAO's work.

This year's session took place in Bakubung, Republic of South Africa. The 49<sup>th</sup> session was opened by the Honourable Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Mrs Lindiwe Benedicta Hendricks, and other keynote speakers, who highlighted the links between South Africa's forestry sector, the international paper and wood products industry and the global debate on climate change and its impacts, in particular increasing fossil fuel prices and soaring food prices.

FAO expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of South Africa and to the Paper Manufacturers Association of South Africa (PAMSA) for their most generous invitation and their help in ensuring the success of the meeting.



Wolf Killmann  
Director

Forest Products and Industries Division