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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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Regional Conference for Europe

TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

Bucharest, Romania, 2 - 4 April 2014

Summary Report of the joint 71st session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and 37th session of the European Forestry Commission

1. At the invitation of the Government of Finland, the joint 71st session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the 37th session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), entitled "Metsä 2013", were held in Rovaniemi, Finland, from 9-13 December 2013, in conjunction with the second European Forest Week. More than 450 participants from the ECE region attended the event. Delegations from 40 COFFI and EFC member countries and the European Union participated.
2. The session included a special segment on green economy dialogues, composed of three round tables dealing with the following topics:
 - 1) The first round table focused on market discussions and provided an update on the developments of forest product markets in the three sub-regions of ECE: Europe with a spotlight on Turkey, the Russian Federation and North America. The discussions were supported by data and information collected, and publications issued by UNECE and FAO, such as the Forest Products Annual Market Review 2012-2013, the COFFI Timber Forecast Tables and the Countries' Market Statements. These market overviews and the discussions which addressed the key developments and drivers of change for the forest sectors in the ECE region were reflected in the market statement.
 - 2) The second round table focused on engaging the private sector and was dedicated to hearing from the region's private sector and to learning about their concerns, as well as their proposals for policymakers. Policymakers were encouraged to support a simplified regulatory framework with greater predictability that recognises the lower carbon footprint of forest products as compared with alternative materials. Competitiveness, together with communicating climate neutrality, were identified as the main challenges for the sector, while education together with training and youth mobility were seen as opportunities that the sector should seize to become more efficient.
 - 3) The third round table focused on measuring and communicating the contribution of the Forest Sector to a Green Economy and discussed challenges and priorities for the development of a comprehensive system to measure the progress of the forest sector toward all dimensions of a green economy. Participants stressed the need for prompt action in order to ensure that the forest sector could contribute to, and would not be left out of, this measurement effort. The sector's

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accomplishments in monitoring Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) were considered to be a good starting point. It was also mentioned that special indicators should be elaborated separately for forestry and the forest industry. Delegates concluded that a successful measurement system for the forest sector needs to be both compatible with those for other sectors and easy to understand for outsiders.

3. Delegates were informed about implementation of decisions taken by the Commission at its 36th session. They were further briefed on recent forestry activities implemented by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, including the Sub-regional Office for Central Asia. Recalling the growing role of the FAO Regional Conferences in budgetary and programme decisions, delegates were invited to engage in active coordination for the next FAO Regional Conference for Europe that will be held in the first week of April 2014. Delegates were also informed about how the new FAO Strategic Objectives will shape activities in the region.
4. Delegates were briefed on the activities conducted under the auspices of *Silva Mediterranea* and were informed about the third Mediterranean Forest Week, the first State of Mediterranean Forests Report, and the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests providing strategic lines and expected results targeted for decision makers.
5. The Commission was informed about the review of the mandate and modus operandi of the EFC Working Party on Management of Mountain Watersheds. The Commission endorsed the new mandate and proposed a work plan.
6. The Committee and the Commission were briefed on the implementation of the new FAO Strategic Framework. Delegates welcomed the improved representation of forests in the Strategic Framework and voiced a note of caution on the continued need to ensure that forests remain a priority. They expressed the need to strengthen work on boreal forests and suggested continuing reinforcing the focus on the landscape approach.
7. The Commission and the Committee were informed on the outcome of the 10th session of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and implications for the ECE region. They underlined the importance of providing regional input to UNFF11 based on the information available in 2014 and mandated UNECE and FAO to develop the study on progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and SFM, and on challenges for forests and the forest sector in the ECE region.
8. Delegates were briefed on the strategic importance of properly reflecting forests in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and considered the possible development of a forest SDG and related targets and indicators.
9. The Committee and the Commission requested that UNECE and FAO organize an expert workshop in Geneva in January 2014 to exchange views and develop ideas on how to strategically include forests in the sustainable development goals and to report accordingly to the Open Working Group meeting in New York in February 2014.
10. Delegates were informed of recent developments in the international environment, including:
 - 1) “A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector”, adopted by the European Commission in September 2013.
 - 2) The implementation of the FOREST EUROPE work plan adopted in March 2012 and the next Expert Level Meeting that will take place at the beginning of February 2014.
 - 3) FAO activities in servicing the negotiations of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe. Despite the important progress made, the INC could not reach an agreement on the complete draft negotiating text and it was decided to transmit the text to the extraordinary FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference for consideration and appropriate action.
11. Through a participatory process with Member States and stakeholders, UNECE and FAO developed a draft Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy that was presented to the session for its review.

12. Highlighting the important effort made by all stakeholders in the development of the Action Plan and the relevance of such a document for the transition towards a green economy, the Commission and the Committee supported the adoption of the Action Plan and decided to name it “the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy”.

13. The session reviewed the draft Integrated Programme of Work (2014-2017) and adopted it along with the terms of reference of the Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management as well as those of the Teams of Specialists and related Guidelines. The joint UNECE/FAO secretariat was mandated to produce a paper on work modalities for the joint COFFI/EFC work.

14. The session was informed about FAO global activities on Sustainable Forest Management and was presented with an overview of the development of FAO tools for sustainable forest management, including:

- 1) An overview of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security.
- 2) Development of an SFM Toolbox, including educational materials, voluntary guidelines and communication platforms.
- 3) Preparation of voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring.
- 4) Development of a guidance tool for managing wildfire-related risks at landscape level.

15. The Commission welcomed the useful tools FAO had developed, and encouraged the translation of these tools into other languages and for countries to make use of them as appropriate. They specifically emphasised the importance of strengthening the work on the implementation of the voluntary guidelines on tenure as well as the development of the SMF toolbox; and invited further inputs in writing to support the completion of these tools.

16. The Commission was informed about the preparation of the report on the State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources. The Commission welcomed the work of FAO on SOW-FGR as well as collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity and encouraged further work.

17. The Commission was informed about the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition, organized by FAO in May 2013. The Commission took note of the key messages and recommendations from the Conference and the commitment by FAO to address the issue of forests and food security in a cross sectoral manner in its new Strategic Framework, noting the unique opportunities offered by the socio-economic conditions in the region.

18. Delegates were briefed about the preparatory work for the next World Forestry Congress (WFC), scheduled to take place in Durban from 7 to 11 September 2015. The Commission invited Members to support the 14th World Forestry Congress and encouraged the widest possible attendance and participation from all sectors within the Region. The Commission supported the host country’s intention to develop a theme under the social agenda, highlighting the gender aspect. They also proposed a number of topics that could be discussed at the technical sessions of the Congress, including forests and climate change; forests and people; integrated approaches across the landscape; the green economy; urban forest issues; and forests as basis for a bio-economy.

19. The Commission developed its recommendations for the attention of the 29th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe and for the 22nd Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry as presented in Annex I.

20. The Commission elected Mr Rob Busink (The Netherlands) as chair, Mr Andrey Filipchuk (Russian Federation), Ms Christine Farcy (Belgium), and Mr Kenan Kilic (Turkey), as vice-chairs, to hold office until the end of the 38th session.

21. At the invitation of the Government of Switzerland, the 38th Session of the EFC will be held jointly with the 72nd Session of the COFFI in 2015.

Annex I

EFC recommendations for the attention of the Regional Conference for Europe

<i>Priority issues for the Regional Commission to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome of the considerations (information/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for FAO</i>
Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy	Information and possible guidance	Support the implementation
Promoting sustainable management of forests and trees in an integrated approach across the landscape in the region	Give guidance to FAO for shaping the work in the region	Support the implementation and strengthen cross the sectoral dimension
Bioenergy	Information and possible guidance	The RC is invited to give attention to this issue in a cross sectoral manner

EFC recommendations for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)

<i>Priority issues for COFO to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome of the considerations (information/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>
Boreal forests	Decision/recommendation for work priorities for the future, aligned with the FAO Strategic Framework	Develop analyses and outlook for the boreal region, overview of related policies, key issues, lessons learned, linking research to policy, showcasing eco-regional approaches in addressing major forestry challenges
Gender in forestry	Information and further guidance	Review of gender aspects are covered in forestry activities in the context of the new Strategic Framework of FAO
Role of FAO in CPF	Information and possible input to UNFF	The way forward, including possible input to the review process
The forest sector in a green economy: from concept to practice	Information and further guidance	Continue and further the discussion started at COFO21
Forests and the Sustainable Development Goals	Information/Decision	Advise members and FAO on further steps
Forest governance, in particular, forest tenure and access rights	Information and further guidance	Advise members on voluntary guidelines and FAO on related program priorities